




**US SENATOR REID  
SAYS HE WILL NOT  
SEEK RE-ELECTION**  
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**LEATHERBACK SEA  
TURTLE SEASON IS  
TO START ANY DAY**  
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# TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Saturday, March 28, 2015



Raffaele Sollecito, right, leaves Italy’s highest court building, in Rome, Friday, March 27, 2015. Italy’s highest court overturned the murder conviction against Amanda Knox and her ex-boyfriend Sollecito Friday, bringing to a definitive end the high-profile case that captivated people on both sides of the Atlantic.  
(AP Photo/Riccardo De Luca )

# Knox Conviction Overturned By Italy High Court

**COLLEEN BARRY  
FRANCES D’EMILIO  
Associated Press  
ROME (AP)** — Italy’s high-  
est court overturned the  
murder conviction against  
Amanda Knox and her  
ex-boyfriend Friday over  
the 2007 slaying of Knox’s  
roommate, bringing to a

definitive end the high-pro-  
file case that captivated  
trial-watchers on both sides  
of the Atlantic.  
“**Finished!**” Knox’s lawyer  
Carlo Dalla Vedova ex-  
ulted after the decision  
was read out late Friday.  
“It couldn’t be better than  
this.”

In a rare decision, the su-  
preme Court of Cassation  
overturned last year’s con-  
victions by a Florence ap-  
peals court, and declined  
to order another trial.  
The decision means the  
judges, after thoroughly  
examining the case, con-  
cluded that a conviction

could not be supported by  
the evidence.  
Experts have said such a  
complete exoneration is  
unusual for the high court,  
which could have upheld  
the conviction or ordered  
a new trial as it did in 2011  
when the case first came  
up to the Cassation’s re-

view on appeal.  
The justices’ reasoning will  
be released within 90 days.  
The decision ends the long  
legal battle waged by Knox  
and Italian co-defendant  
Raffaele Sollecito.

**Continued on page 3**



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## Co-pilot appeared healthy, but may have hidden illness



In this 2009 photo, Andreas Lubitz competes at the Airportrun in Hamburg, northern Germany. Germanwings co-pilot Andreas Lubitz appears to have hidden evidence of an illness from his employers, including having been excused by a doctor from work the day he crashed a passenger plane into a mountain, prosecutors said Friday, March 27, 2015. The evidence came from the search of Lubitz's homes in two German cities for an explanation of why he crashed the Airbus A320 into the French Alps, killing all 150 people on board.

(AP Photo/Michael Mueller)

**GEIR MOULSON**  
**DAVID McHUGH**  
**Associated Press**

**MONTABAUER,** Germany (AP) — Germanwings co-pilot Andreas Lubitz appeared happy and healthy to acquaintances, but a picture emerged Friday of a man who hid evidence of an illness from his employers — including a torn-up doctor's note that would have kept him off work the day authorities say he crashed Flight 9525 into an Alpine mountainside. As German prosecutors sought to piece together the puzzle of why Lubitz locked his captain out of the cockpit and crashed the Airbus A320, police in

the French Alps toiled to retrieve the shattered remains of the 150 people killed in Tuesday's crash. Searches conducted at Lubitz's homes in Duesseldorf and in the town of Montabaur turned up documents pointing to "an existing illness and appropriate medical treatment," but no suicide note was found, said Ralf Herrenbrueck, a spokesman for the Duesseldorf prosecutors' office. They included ripped-up sick notes covering the day of the crash, which "support the current preliminary assessment that the deceased hid his illness from his employer and colleagues," Herrenbrueck

said in a statement. Doctors commonly issue employees in Germany with such notes excusing them from work, even for minor illnesses, and workers hand them to their employers. Doctors are obliged to abide by medical secrecy unless their patient explicitly tells them he or she plans to commit an act of violence. Prosecutors didn't specify what illness Lubitz may have been suffering from, or say whether it was mental or physical. German media reported Friday that the 27-year-old had suffered from depression. The Duesseldorf University Hospital said Friday that Lubitz had been a patient

there over the past two months and last went in for a "diagnostic evaluation" on March 10. It declined to provide details, citing medical confidentiality, but denied reports it had treated Lubitz for depression.

Neighbors described a man whose physical health was superb and road race records show Lubitz took part in several long-distance runs.

"He definitely did not smoke. He really took care of himself. He always went jogging. ... He was very healthy," said Johannes Rossmann, who lives a few doors from Lubitz's home in Montabaur.

People in Montabaur who knew Lubitz told The Associated Press that he had been thrilled with his job at Germanwings and seemed very happy.

On Friday, no one was seen coming or going from his family's large slate-roofed two-story house in Montabaur as more than 100 journalists remained outside. Mayor Edmund Schaaf appealed to the media to show "consideration."

"Independent of whether the accusations against the co-pilot are true or not, we have sympathy for his family," he said.

Germanwings said that both pilots on the plane had medical clearance, and it had received no sick note for the day of the crash. Medical checkups are done by certified doctors and take place once a year.

A German aviation official

told the AP that Lubitz's file at the country's Federal Aviation Office contained a notation that meant he needed "specific regular medical examination." Such a notation could refer to either a physical or mental condition but the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information, said Lubitz's file did not specify which.

German media have painted a picture of a man with a history of depression who had received psychological treatment, and who may have been set off by a falling-out with his girlfriend. Duesseldorf prosecutors, who are leading the German side of the probe, refused to comment on the anonymously sourced reports.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration had issued Lubitz a third-class medical certificate. In order to obtain such a certificate, a pilot must be cleared of psychological problems including psychosis, bipolar disorder and personality disorders.

The certificate also means that he wasn't found to be suffering from another mental health condition that "makes the person unable to safely perform the duties or exercise the privileges" of a pilot's license. Carsten Spohr, the CEO of Germanwings' parent company, Lufthansa, has said there was a "several-month" gap in Lubitz's training six years ago, but didn't elaborate. □



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## Knox conviction overturned by Italy high court

Continued from Front

Both Knox, who awaited the verdict in her hometown of Seattle, and Sollecito have long maintained their innocence in the death of British student Meredith Kercher.

The Kercher family attorney, Francesco Maresca, was clearly disappointed by the ruling.

"I think that it's a defeat for the Italian justice system," he said.

Across the Atlantic, a spontaneous shout of joy erupted from inside the Seattle home of Knox's mother as the verdict was announced. Several relatives and supporters filtered into the back yard, where they hugged and cheered.

Dalla Vedova said he called Knox to tell her the news, but said she couldn't speak through her tears.

"She was crying because she was so happy," he said.

The case aroused strong interest in three countries for its explosive mix of young love, murder and flip-flop decisions by Italian courts. Kercher, 21, was found dead Nov. 2, 2007, in the apartment that she shared with Knox and two other students. Her throat was slashed and she had been sexually assaulted.

Knox and Sollecito were arrested a few days later. Eventually another man, Rudy Guede from Ivory Coast, was arrested, tried and convicted of the murder in a separate trial and is serving a 16-year sentence.

The couple maintained their innocence, insisting that they had spent the evening together at Sollecito's place watching a movie, smoking marijuana and making love.

Knox and Sollecito were initially convicted by a Perugia court in 2009, then acquitted and freed in 2011,

and then convicted again in 2014 in Florence after the Cassation court overturned the acquittals and ordered a new appeals trial.

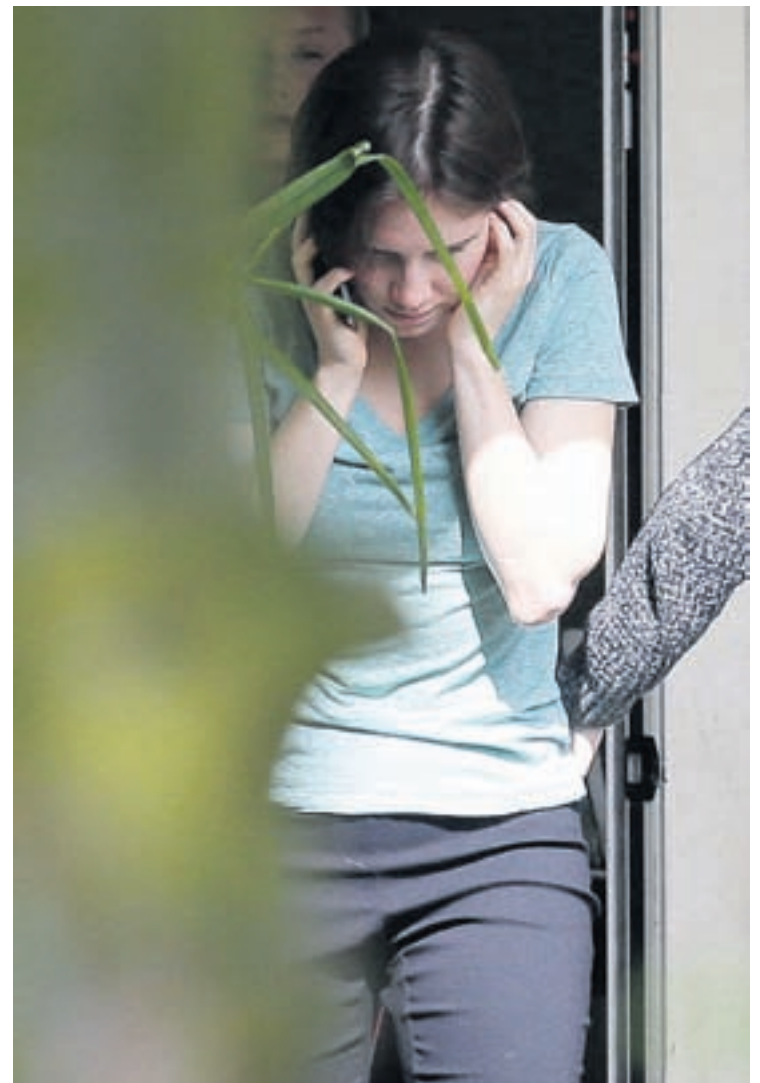
That Florence appeals conviction was overturned Friday. Sollecito's lawyer, Luca Maori, called the young man with the good news from the steps of the courthouse.

"You have your whole life ahead of you now, Raf" he told Sollecito.

Telling reporters, he added: "He almost couldn't speak. Eight years of nightmare over." □

**Amanda Knox talks on a phone in the backyard of her mother's house Friday, March 27, 2015, in Seattle. Italy's highest court overturned the murder conviction against Knox and her ex-boyfriend Friday over the 2007 slaying of Knox's roommate, bringing to a definitive end the high-profile case that captivated trial-watchers on both sides of the Atlantic.**

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)







## US Sen. Harry Reid says he won't seek re-election

**CARL HULSE**

© 2015 New York Times

**WASHINGTON** - Sen. Harry Reid, the tough tactician who has led Senate Democrats since 2005, will not seek re-election next year, bringing an end to a three-decade congressional career that culminated with his push of President Barack Obama's ambitious agenda against fierce Republican resistance.

Reid, 75, who suffered serious eye and facial injuries in a Jan. 1 exercise accident at his Las Vegas home, said he had been contemplating retiring from the Senate for months. He said his decision was not attributable either to the accident or to his demotion to minority leader after Democrats lost the majority in Novem-

ber's midterm elections.

"I understand this place," Reid said. "I have quite a bit of power as minority leader."

He has already confounded the new Republican majority this year by holding Democrats united against a proposal to gut the Obama administration's immigration policies as well as a human-trafficking measure Democrats objected to over an anti-abortion provision.

"I want to be able to go out at the top of my game," said Reid, who used a sports metaphor about athletes who try to hang on too long. "I don't want to be a 42-year-old trying to become a designated hitter."

Reid's tenure has become



Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., center, speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 24, 2015, following a policy luncheon. Reid, the tough tactician who has led Senate Democrats since 2005, will not seek re-election next year.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

increasingly combative in recent years and included a procedural change on

nominations that infuriated Republicans. He also came under fire for blocking floor debate, and even some of his Democratic colleagues suggested that he was stifling the Senate. Just this week, he alienated House Democrats who thought he was sabotaging a compromise on Medicare.

His departure at the end of 2016 will create an opening both at the top of the Senate Democratic hierarchy and in a Senate contest that would have been a megaspending slugfest in the presidential battleground of Nevada. Conservatives such as Charles G. and David H. Koch, the billionaire brothers who were a favorite target of Reid criticism in 2014, would have spared no expense in trying to oust him. Sen. Charles E. Schumer of New York, who helped Democrats capture the Senate in 2006 and has led their political messaging operation, is considered the favorite to succeed Reid as party leader. Sen. Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat, could also be a con-

tender for the job, but it is unclear how strongly he would pursue it.

In Nevada, Catherine Cortez Masto, the state's former attorney general, is considered a strong Democratic candidate with Reid out; the Republican field will be fluid and is likely to include Michael Roberson, a State Senate leader. Reid had previously insisted he was running and said he was confident that he could have triumphed next year had he decided to seek a sixth term. The onetime amateur boxer noted he might not have even run in 2010 if Republicans had not made such a point of trying to unseat him. He also said he was worried his race would consume campaign money that would be needed in other competitive states as Democrats try to regain control of the Senate.

"I think it is unfair for me to be soaking up all the money to be re-elected with what we are doing in Maryland, in Pennsylvania, in Missouri, in Florida," he said. "These are big, expensive states." □

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## Colorado woman charged under new law in mom attack



Defense attorney Kathryn Herold speaks with the judge during the charge hearing for Dynel Lane, the woman accused of cutting a baby from an expectant mother's belly, at Boulder County Court and Jail, in Boulder, Colo., Friday, March 27, 2015. Defendant Lane was shielded from viewing by media and public present in the courtroom. Lane was charged Friday with attempted murder, assault and unlawful termination of a pregnancy.

(AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

**SADIE GURMAN**  
Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — The Colorado woman accused of cutting a baby from an

expectant mother's belly was charged Friday with attempted murder, assault and unlawful termination of a pregnancy — but not

murder. The lack of the more serious charge for Dynel Lane, 34, angered activists and led Republican lawmakers in

the state to vow to reopen a charged debate over the point at which a fetus can legally be considered a human being.

The unlawful termination charge was filed under a new law intended to be a compromise between opponents and supporters of abortion rights. The maximum punishment for the felony is 32 years in prison, whereas a person convicted of homicide in Colorado could face the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole. Boulder District Attorney Stan Garnett announced Thursday that murder wouldn't be among Lane's charges, saying there was no evidence the unborn baby girl lived after being removed from the mother. The autopsy found "no medical or physical evidence" that the baby ever took a breath outside her mother and that the baby's lungs never inflated,

Garnett said.

"On this point, Colorado law is absolutely unambiguous," he said at a news conference as protesters demonstrated outside the courthouse.

Under Colorado law, a person can face a murder charge in the death of a fetus only if there is evidence the baby survived apart from its mother.

Lane is accused of luring Michelle Wilkins, 26, to her home with a Craigslist ad selling baby clothes. Wilkins, who was about eight months pregnant, survived and left the hospital this week.

Lane's lawyer did not comment on the allegations against her during Friday's brief hearing.

The decision not to charge Lane with murder angered some Republican lawmakers in a state that has rejected proposals to make the violent death of a fetus a homicide. □



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## American Politics:

# Republicans, in shift, demand lockstep support for Israel

**PETER BAKER**

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**WASHINGTON** - When former Secretary of State James A. Baker III accused Israel's leader this week of undermining the chances of peace in the region, he said nothing more than the kinds of things he had said at times when he was in office a quarter-century ago. But the instant backlash from fellow Republicans that prompted Jeb Bush, the son of Baker's best friend, to distance himself underscored just how much their party has changed on the issue of Israel. Where past Republican leaders had their disagreements with Israel, today's Republicans have made support for the Jewish state an inviolable litmus test for anyone aspiring to national office.

"If you're a Republican and you hedge on your support on Israel, it's viewed as having a flawed foreign policy," said Ron Bonjean, a party strategist who has worked for Republican leaders in Congress. "It's a requirement for Republicans these

days to be very strong on Israel if they're going to be taken seriously by primary voters." Any deviation on that, he said, leads to inevitable questions: "If you're not supporting Israel, then who are you supporting? Are you supporting Iran?"

The Republican support coalescing behind Israel, and particularly its hawkish prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has been on display in recent weeks as President Barack Obama has neared a nuclear agreement with Iran that critics call dangerous. The House speaker, John A. Boehner, invited Netanyahu to address Congress on the matter while 47 Senate Republicans signed an open letter to Iran warning against making a deal with the president.

The shift in the party's attitude toward Israel stems from several factors, according to Republicans - a greater sense of solidarity in the fight against Islamic extremism since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, increased support for the Jewish state among evangelical Chris-

tians and the influence of wealthy donors like Sheldon Adelson, the Las Vegas casino magnate. And the more Obama feuds with Netanyahu, the more

tionalism is akin to Zionism." And he said the contrast between Obama's friction with Netanyahu and former President George W. Bush's strong support for Israel "is

Baker said he had "been disappointed with the lack of progress toward a lasting peace" between Israelis and Palestinians and recalled that Netanyahu had



**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel is welcomed by legislators before his address, on Capitol Hill in Washington, March 3, 2015. Though it was not always the case, support for the hawkish Netanyahu has become an inviolable litmus test for any Republicans aspiring to national office.**

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

Republicans feel motivated to come to the Israeli leader's defense.

"It is remarkable," said William Kristol, editor of The Weekly Standard, a conservative magazine and one of the leading voices promoting Israel's cause in the United States. Netanyahu, who goes by the nickname Bibi, has become a rallying point for Republicans, he said. "Bibi would probably win the Republican nomination if it were legal," he said.

Kristol, emailing from Israel where he was meeting with Netanyahu, described the shift as a result of broader underlying trends in U.S. politics as the political left grows more "European" and the political right grows more "Reaganite." He added that "the conservative belief in American excep-

pretty dramatic."

Jeremy Ben-Ami, founder and president of J Street, the liberal pro-Israel advocacy organization that hosted Baker at its convention in Washington this week, said the Republican Party had grown more radical, leaving behind the former secretary of state and others like Brent Scowcroft, who was national security adviser under the first President George Bush, and Colin L. Powell, another former secretary of state.

"These used to be the center of the Republican Party," Ben-Ami said. "I don't think they've shifted. They're still saying the same thing. The Republican Party of today has moved so far to the right they can't relate to what these folks are saying."

In his speech Monday night,

once spoken out in favor of a Palestinian state as part of an eventual solution.

"Since then, his actions have not matched his rhetoric as settlement construction has continued unabated and last week, under intense political strain, he announced his opposition to a two-state solution," Baker said.

"Now even though he attempted to back away from his statement two days after, I think we would all agree that the short term prospect for such a solution obviously remains quite bleak."

Baker added that the United States would "never, never, never abandon Israel" and criticized what he called the "political gamesmanship" that has turned the issue into a political football lately. □

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## US Financial Front:

# American manufacturers feel a chill as the dollar heats up abroad

NELSON D. SCHWARTZ  
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The dollar's sharp rise in recent months has left Robert Stevenson and Eastman Machine, his family's 127-year-old Buffalo, New York, company, feeling the heat on both sides of the Atlantic. Confronted with a steep drop in the value of the euro against the dollar, customers in Europe warn that they can no longer afford to buy Eastman's U.S.-made cutting equipment without deep discounts. Buyers in America, meanwhile, are demanding lower prices from Stevenson, too, as European-based rivals take advantage of the suddenly stronger dollar, which allows them to reduce prices on the machines they export to the United States without squeezing profits. In both cases, Stevenson has been forced to com-

promise, cutting prices and sacrificing profit margins to avoid losing business.

"We are hardly making money, but we need to keep these customers and keep our factory going," he said. "This wouldn't have happened a couple of years ago."

Indeed, the sharp rise of the dollar threatens to undercut one of the principal drivers of the recovery in recent years: strong export growth for U.S. companies. At the same time, it is also raising concerns among policymakers at the Federal Reserve. Last week, Janet L. Yellen, the Fed chairwoman, warned that the stronger dollar was likely to weigh on exports, producing "a notable drag this year on the outlook."

On Tuesday, McCormick & Co., the spice producer, said the robust dollar would hurt results in the



Mohamed Hassan assembles a round knife cutter at Eastman Machine, a manufacturer in Buffalo, N.Y., March 23, 2015. Customers in Europe, where the euro has fallen against the dollar, say they can no longer afford American goods without deep discounts.

(Michael McElroy/The New York Times)

months ahead; other well-known U.S. companies like Tiffany and Oracle made similar pronouncements last week. More warnings are expected as companies begin to report earnings for the first quarter of

2015, which ends Tuesday. Although the euro has rebounded slightly in recent days, with 1 euro now worth just under \$1.10, the shared currency used by 19 countries in Europe is down sharply from \$1.25

in December. Other currencies from different parts of the world, including the British pound, the Australian dollar, the Japanese yen and the Brazilian real, have followed a similar trajectory. □



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## American Living:

# Migration patterns explain where Americans are moving

NEIL IRWIN

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The Villages, Florida, an hour northwest of Orlando, may be the only retirement community that is also the center of its own census-designated statistical area. It also holds another distinction: In 2014, its population rose more quickly than that of any other census area in the United States, climbing 5.4 percent, compared with 0.7 percent for the nation as a whole.

As it turns out, the rapid population growth in the Villages and other high-ranked places in the latest detailed population data issued by the census on Thursday tells a very simple, powerful story about where the U.S. population is head-

ing.

Where is the population growing fastest? Places that are warm, places that have ample affordable housing and places that are popular retirement destinations. It is an old story. But during the housing bust, local real estate conditions varied so much that this basic pattern broke down, as people responded to collapsing home prices above all. In 2014, the old pattern reasserted itself.

Besides the Villages, the top places for population gains last year included the metro areas centered in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Austin, Texas, and Fort Myers, Florida. Some of the metro areas with the lowest numbers - in these



Fans attend a concert during the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas. Austin is one of the fastest-growing metro areas in the country, as the pre-housing crisis pattern — fast growth in warm areas with affordable housing — reassert themselves.

(Ben Sklar/The New York Times)

cases outright contraction of population - included Elmira, New York, Danville, Illinois, and Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

In other words, old, established Northeastern and Midwestern cities lost population or barely held even, while Sun Belt places with affordable housing added them, which has been the dominant story in U.S. demographic change for decades now.

Consider this: If you know how quickly a place added population from 1980 to 2000, you can predict with pretty good confidence how quickly its population grew in 2014. The correlation between those two numbers was a whopping 0.82 (if they correlated perfectly, that number would be 1), according to calculations by Jed Kolko, the chief economist of Trulia.

"What's striking is how high that correlation is despite all of the effects of the

housing market and migration that the housing bubble and bust had," Kolko said.

By contrast, in 2009, when the housing bust was underway, the correlation was only 0.56. Knowing a region's population trend at the end of the 20th century told you something about how it was doing in 2009, just not much compared with 2014, when more of the effects of the housing bust had worked their way through.

What is interesting about seeing the pre-housing crisis trend reassert itself is that it seems to be rooted in broad shift in how Americans want to live. A close look at the data shows that a warm climate and affordability indeed seem to be the common threads in most of the places growing quickly, particularly because of migration within the United States.

Last year, for example,

places where the average January high temperature was over 60 degrees added population at more than six times the rate of places where the average January high was below 35 degrees.

The relationship between home prices and domestic migration exists but is less strong, according to Kolko's analysis, with a negative 25 percent correlation between a metro area's median home price per square foot and its population change as a result of people moving within the United States. In other words, places that are more expensive have weaker population growth, though with quite a few places that break the trend.

In effect, he found, two big trends support this basic idea of cheaper housing leads to more population, while one worked against it. □

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## Shiite militias in Iraq back off boycott over US strikes on ISIS

ROD NORDLAND

OMAR AL-JAWOSHY

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**BAGHDAD** - A day after several Shiite militias quit the offensive against the Islamic State in protest against U.S. airstrikes, senior Iraqi leaders made assurances Friday that the militiamen would adhere to government command and cooperate with the U.S. role.

Buoyed by a message of support from Iraq's powerful Shiite religious leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, a spokesman for Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi pointedly announced that the popular mobilization committees, as the militias are called, would cooperate with the U.S. role in the battle to recapture Tikrit from militants. "Everything was explained to the popular mobilization committees, so the decision to seek the assistance of the coalition was explained to them, and the prime minister's instructions were clear," said Rafid Jabouri, a spokesman for al-Abadi. "The prime minister is the commander in chief of the armed forces, and the popular mobilization committees should be operating under the commander in chief, in full cooperation with the Iraqi armed forces."

That message seemed to be quickly picked up on the ground in Salahuddin province, around Tikrit. Even an alleged friendly fire episode in which a U.S. airstrike reportedly killed at least three federal policemen and killed and wounded an undetermined number of militiamen late Thursday did not arouse much of a reaction.

The supposed airstrike casualties were reported by the Salahuddin Operations

Command, a joint headquarters in charge of the fight for Tikrit. But on Friday, Asaib Ahl al-Haq, the militia that was reportedly hit at its posts at the Tikrit university campus, denied that it had lost any men from a U.S. airstrike.

Asked to discuss the incident, an Asaib Ahl al-Haq official in the area said only, "These are sensitive issues, and I cannot comment." Only a day earlier, the militia's leaders were loudly complaining that the Americans would likely target them on purpose or by accident.

Asaib Ahl al-Haq was one of four important Shiite militias that announced Thursday that they would not cooperate with the Tikrit offensive after the Americans became involved. Together, they represented more than a third of the 30,000-strong Iraqi force besieging Tikrit.

While the U.S. military had demanded the withdrawal of Shiite militias, many of which had Iranian advisers, before it would begin airstrikes on Tikrit, U.S. commanders have quietly acknowledged that at least some of the militias would eventually play a crucial part in subduing Tikrit on the ground.

The biggest of the militias, the Badr Organization, which is close to Iran and also a major supporter of the Iraqi government, warned on Thursday that it might pull out, potentially weakening the pro-government force. But on Friday, the militia's leadership appeared to step back from that brink. "We haven't retreated from our positions near Tikrit," said Mueen al-Kadhumi, a senior leader of the group.

Continued on Page 27



Iraqi security forces prepare to attack Islamic State extremist positions as smoke rises from central Tikrit during clashes in the city, 80 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, March 27, 2015. On the ground, the Iraqi troops pressed their push in the city on Friday as fighter planes pounded IS targets from above. Militants holed up in the center of Tikrit fired mortars at the military, slowing its progress despite the new aerial campaign.

(AP Photo/Khalid Mohammed)



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## Warships move in key strait as airstrikes widen in Yemen

**AHMED AL-HAJ  
HAMZA HENDAWI  
Associated Press**

**SANAA, Yemen (AP)** — As airstrikes in Yemen intensified on their second day Friday, Egypt and Saudi Arabia were considering an intervention on the ground, aimed at giving the president a secure foothold to return to the country, while backing Sunni tribesmen to fight against Shiite rebels and their allies, military officials said.

A likely entry point for troops from the Saudi-led Arab coalition was the southern port of Aden, the Yemeni and Egyptian military officials told The Associated Press. But that could be a tough prospect: The city is already a battleground,

and on Friday forces loyal to the rebels' top ally, former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, were advancing toward it.

The officials' comments to the AP draw broad outlines for the likely strategy for the ambitious campaign launched Thursday, led by Saudi Arabia with a major role by its ally Egypt. The aim, they said, was to carve out enough room for President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who was forced to flee the country from Aden, to return. Longer-term, the campaign aims to wear down the Shiite rebels, known as Houthis, and Saleh's forces, enough to reach a power-sharing accord. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity

to discuss the plans.

"The credibility and legitimacy of President Hadi erode with every day he spends outside the country," said one Yemeni military official. Hadi fled by boat from Aden on Wednesday, making his way to Saudi Arabia, and on Friday arrived in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh for an Arab summit due to start the following day.

The forces of Saleh appear to be a key concern. Saleh ruled Yemen with an autocratic hand for nearly 40 years until he was forced out and replaced by Hadi in 2012 following an Arab Spring uprising.

But he remained in Yemen and kept the loyalty of



In a handout photo provided by the Saudi Press Agency, President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi of Yemen arrives at an airbase in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on March 26, 2015. Rebel-aligned forces were reportedly fighting in the streets of Aden, the southern Yemeni port town where the Saudi-backed Hadi, had until recently prepared to make his last stand.

(Saudi Press Agency via The New York Times)

many military commanders. One Yemeni official Friday estimated that 70 percent of the army is loyal to Saleh, including many of the best armed and trained units based around the country. Those pro-Saleh troops have been fighting alongside the Iranian-allied Houthis, enabling them to take over the capital Sanaa and much of the country over the past months — at least 10 of Yemen's 21 provinces.

Saudi Arabia and fellow Sunni-led allies in the Gulf and the Middle East view the Houthi takeover as an attempt by Iran to estab-

lish a proxy on the kingdom's southern border. Iran and the Houthis deny that Tehran arms the rebel movement, though it says it provides diplomatic and humanitarian support. Washington says the U.S. is providing refueling tankers and surveillance flights for the Saudi operations, and there are several U.S. troops working in the operations center, but the U.S. is not taking direct military action.

A second day of intense airstrikes by Saudi Arabia and its allies hammered Sanaa and five other provinces, hitting bases of units loyal to Saleh. □

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## Nigerian leader urges peaceful vote as elections loom



A young boy sweeps his prayer rug around his shoulders to carry it to where he will pray, as he joins hundreds of other worshippers outside the Emir's Palace Mosque in Daura, the home town of opposition candidate Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, in Katsina state in northern Nigeria Friday, March 27, 2015. The imam of the mosque called on worshippers to pray for free and fair elections, which are due to be held on Saturday. (AP Photo/Ben Curtis)

**MICHELLE FAUL**  
**Associated Press**

**ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)** — Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan urged his nation to vote peacefully and accept the results of Saturday's presidential elections, which analysts say will be the most tightly contested in the history of Africa's richest nation and its largest democracy.

"No political ambition can justify violence or the shedding of the blood of our people," Jonathan, who is running for re-election, said Friday in a televised broadcast.

In a country steeped in a history of coups, bloodshed caused by politics, ethnicity, land disputes and, lately, the Boko Haram Islamic uprising, the election is important as Africa's most populous nation consolidates its democracy.

"It's just healthy that they approach this as an exercise of the rights of Nigerians to choose their government and not as a war," the U.N. Secretary General's special envoy to West Africa, Mohammed Ibn

Chambas, told The Associated Press in an interview. Nigeria's political landscape was transformed when the main opposition parties formed a coalition two years ago and for the first time united behind one candidate, former military dictator Muhammadu Buhari who is Jonathan's main challenger.

The election is only the eighth since independence from Britain in 1960 and the first ever to raise the possibility of a democratic transfer of power through the ballot box, a high-stakes contest in Africa's biggest oil producer where patronage and corruption are rife. No incumbent has ever lost an election.

It should be "cause for celebration," said Chidi Odinkalu, chairman of the National Human Rights Commission. But he noted it has spawned "the most extraordinary form of hate speech, incendiary vituperations, ethnic bating; all the things you are not supposed to do."

His state-sponsored but independent organization

reported at least 58 killings by Feb. 13 and there have been many more since

then, Odinkalu told AP. He also complained that politicians have done little to dampen tensions.

Meanwhile, Nigeria's military announced it had destroyed the headquarters of Boko Haram's so-called Islamic caliphate, in the northeastern town of Gwoza, in fighting Friday that left several extremists dead. It claimed the recapture of Gwoza has cleared insurgents from strongholds in all three northeastern states, which seems unlikely. There was no way to verify the report. Critics of Jonathan have said recent military victories after months of ceding territory to the Islamic extremists are a ploy to win votes — a charge the presidential campaign denies.

"Wage peace not war,"

is a campaign long promoted by the National Orientation Agency which is working with bloggers and other social media popular among millions of Nigerians, according its director general, Mike Omeri. The idea is to "create a lot of buzz" and build "a community of people that will be driven by a passion for peace."

Entertainment star and musician 2Face Idibia wrote a song aimed at young voters called "Vote not Fight: Election no be war" in Nigerian colloquial English.

But some people are so fearful of election violence that they are leaving for a while, going as far as the United States and Canada. Flights are packed, with airlines turning away standby passengers this week at Lagos international airport. □

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## Stampede at Hindu ritual in Bangladesh kills at least 10

ELLEN BARRY

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

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**DHAKA, Bangladesh** - At least 10 Hindu pilgrims were killed and dozens more were injured south-east of the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka, on Friday when an annual bathing ritual turned into a stampede, the police said. The police said they believed the stampede was

set off by a rumor that a bridge was collapsing. As the rumor spread, thousands of people crowded onto a narrow pathway that led to one of the riverside platforms used for bathing, crushing three men and seven women underfoot, according to the police superintendent, Khandekar Mahid Uddin. Every year, Hindus travel great distances - includ-

ing from Nepal, Bhutan and India - to gather on the banks of the Brahmaputra River and take part in a ritual bath. Uddin said that the authorities could not determine how large the crowd on Friday was but that it was larger than usual, possibly more than 1 million people, because the festival fell during a long weekend in Bangladesh.

He said the crush may have been exacerbated by a sense of urgency, since the pilgrims aim to bathe during an auspicious time period, which this year lasted for only 12 hours.

"There was a rush from the devotees," Uddin said. "Also, though the bridge had not collapsed, the rumor spread a feeling of fear."

Kajal Debnath, the president of the Puja Observation Committee of Bangladesh, a Hindu religious organization, said that many Hindus believe that if they bathe in the early morning hours, they will be cleansed of their sins. He complained that businessmen had seized space along the route taken by the pilgrims to build shops, rendering it very narrow. □

## At least 9 dead as militants attack hotel in Somali capital



A Somali man stands near the wreckage of a car that carried the bomb and was detonated at the gate of one of Mogadishu's most popular hotels. Friday, March, 27, 2015. A Somali police official says a suicide bomber has detonated his explosives-laden car at the gate of a hotel popular with government officials in Mogadishu. Capt. Mohamed Hussein says gunfire could be heard inside the Maka-Mukarramah Hotel, but it was not clear if any gunmen had managed to penetrate the hotel's gate. (AP Photo/Farah Abdi Warsameh)

ABDI GULED

Associated Press

**MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)**

— Al-Shabab militants blasted their way into a Mogadishu hotel on Friday and took up positions inside, killing at least nine people and exchanging fire with security forces seeking to

recapture the facility, a Somali police official said. One survivor who made it safely outside the Maka Al-Mukarramah hotel in the Somali capital said the militants were killing anyone they could find inside. He did not give his name. The attack started when a

suicide bomber detonated his explosives-laden car at the gate of the hotel. Gunmen then quickly moved in, Capt. Mohamed Hussein told The Associated Press from the scene of the attack. Hours later, the militants were still holed up in the ho-

tel's dark alleys and rooms. Sporadic gunfire could be heard, but it appeared that the security forces would wait until daybreak before trying again to dislodge the militants.

At least four gunmen trapped an unknown number of people inside the building, Hussein said. He said he had counted at least nine bodies, but the death toll was likely to rise. Al-Shabab, the al-Qaida-linked Islamic extremist group that has carried out many attacks in Somalia, claimed responsibility for the assault on the hotel, which is popular with Somali government officials and foreigners.

Somali special forces trained their weapons on the hotel's windows as gunfire rang out from inside. Some survivors jumped out of the hotel's windows. One bloodied government soldier, wounded from fighting, was dragged out by colleagues and bundled into an ambulance, according to Hussein. It remained unclear who was being targeted by the

militants and how many civilians were inside the hotel. Somalia has been trying to rebuild following years of political instability and civil strife since 1991, when the dictator Siad Barre was ousted from power.

But al-Shabab routinely carries out suicide bombings, drive-by shootings and other attacks in Mogadishu, the seat of Somalia's Western-backed government — often targeting government troops, lawmakers and foreigners.

Al-Shabab controlled much of Mogadishu between 2007 and 2011, but was pushed out of Somalia's capital and other major cities by African Union forces. Despite major setbacks in 2014, al-Shabab continues to wage a deadly insurgency against Somalia's government and remains a threat in the East African region.

The group has carried out attacks in neighboring countries, including Kenya, whose military is part of the African Union troops bolstering Somalia's weak government. □

## Turkey expands police powers, cracks down on protests

CEYLAN YEGINSU

© 2015 New York Times

**ISTANBUL** - Turkey's parliament passed one of its most contested pieces of legislation Friday, a bill that broadens police powers and increases penalties for people participating in unauthorized demonstrations. Approval came after a monthlong debate in which cups and glasses were flung across the assembly

floor and lawmakers on opposing sides brawled with their fists over the bill. Supported by the ruling Justice and Development Party, which holds the majority of seats, the bill is expected to be signed into law by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Under the bill, the police will be permitted to use firearms against demonstrators who are armed with

firebombs or other "injurious or similar weapons." They will also be able to detain people for up to 48 hours to uphold public order. Protesters wearing masks or partly covering their faces will face up to five years in prison if they are deemed to be spreading "propaganda for a terrorist organization." The bill will also allow the police to pursue some in-

vestigations without authorization from prosecutors and judges, raising fears of the arbitrary use of power without judicial oversight. Opponents say that the bill breaches the separation of powers between the legislative, executive and judicial branches and that it could create the basis for turning Turkey into a police state. The government has described the bill

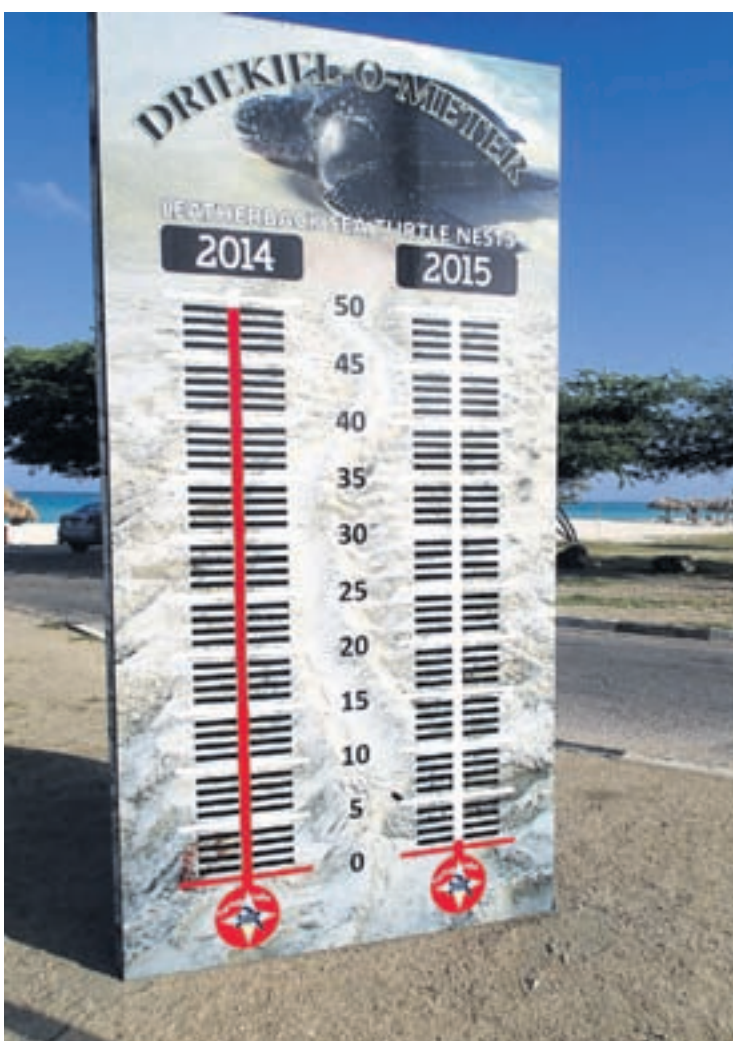
as a reform that increases the security of its citizens while keeping within the European Union's standards for freedoms and security regulations. The bill was proposed by the ruling party after thousands of Kurds took to the streets in October to protest Turkey's lack of support for Kurdish fighters battling the Islamic State in the besieged Syrian town of Kobani. □





## Leatherback Sea Turtle Season Can Start Any Day!

**EAGLE BEACH** - Have you noticed the turtle information signs along the Boulevard at Eagle Beach—one in front of Paradise Beach Villa's and another one close to Costa Linda Beach Resort? The signs are called "Driekiel-O-Meter" with information about the Leatherback Sea Turtles (locally called Driekiel). The Leatherback Sea Turtles nesting on Aruba don't live in the Caribbean, but in the Northern part of the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Nova Scotia, Canada. But they are born on Aruba's beaches. After 20



– 30 years they reach maturity and then return to their natal beach in order to nest during the turtle nesting season (March – July). Normally one female makes about 7 nests per season.

After laying her last nest the female returns to the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean. She will not come back to Aruba the next year, but will skip one or two years.

All species of sea turtles are endangered and need our protection.

What you can do to protect sea turtles:

--Lights out for sea turtles. Nighttime activities and artificial lighting may deter adult females from nesting.

So PLEASE keep all lights off, including flashlights, flash photography and video equipment. "Sea turtles dig the dark"

Ask your hotel manager to turn off or minimize the lights that are visible on the beach in front of the resort.

--Do not drive on beaches. Not all of the turtle nests on all the beaches around Aruba are marked. Vehicles (4x4, quads) compact the sand and can crush the eggs.

--Do not litter. Do not leave any plastic cups or bags on the beach. The wind will blow it into the sea. A floating plastic bag is easily mistaken for a jellyfish, the Leatherback Sea Turtle's favorite food.

--Remove obstacles from the beach.

Obstacles as beach furniture or recreational equipment may cause nesting females to abort their nesting attempt or may even trap them.

So don't leave any beach chairs at night unattended

close to the sea, but make a stack as far as possible away from the water.

--Do not disturb a nesting sea turtle.

Do not attempt to touch the turtle but stay at a respectful distance (at least 15 meters).

Do allow the turtle to complete the full nesting process (about two hours) and don't be in her way when she returns to the sea.

--Do call Turtugaruba (24 hour Turtle Hotline: (297) 592-9393.

Follow Turtugaruba at: [www.facebook.com/Turtugaruba](http://www.facebook.com/Turtugaruba)

If you witness a sea turtle, or if you see turtle crawl marks, during a late evening or early morning stroll on the beach please do call Turtugaruba or notify the front desk of your hotel.

Thanks! □



# Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino Proudly Announces New Management Positions



## PALM BEACH, ARUBA –

March 2015 – Marriott International's founder J. Willard Marriott as well as his son, Executive Chairman, J.W. Marriott, Jr. have coached managers to "take care of your associates and they will take care of your customers and the customers will come back." This philosophy is the foundation of Marriott's culture and the foundation of the company's global growth and success. Marriott International as well as the Aruba Marriott are committed to providing an environment where our associates have the opportunity to achieve their potential, are highly engaged and are empowered to deliver great guest service.

Therefore it is with great pride that the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino announces the recent internal promotions of Yazira Javois-Feliciana, Henk Reeberg and Gislaine Croes.

Yazira Javois-Feliciana started her career with the Aruba Marriott on December 9, 2004 in the Casino Marketing department as a Credit and Reservations Coordinator and until recently held the position of Casino Marketing Manager. Yazira has recently been promoted to Director of Casino Marketing & Slot Performance, where she will be responsible for directing and managing the successful operations of the marketing and slots department in the Stellaris Casino. This position oversees the functional development of a consistent and cohesive marketing plan, to include but not limited to, marketing promotions, promotional programs, special events, entertainment, and players' club operations and to accomplish the strategic positioning of being the customer preferred gaming venue in Aruba.

Henk Reeberg started his career with the Aruba Marriott on August 9, 2006 as a Casino Income Auditor in our Casino Accounting Team. In 2010 Henk was



promoted to the position of Casino Accounting Supervisor. After about 1 year in this position Henk took on the challenge of becoming the Assistant Slot Manager and in 2013 he was promoted to the position of Slot Manager. In his new position as Director of Casino Surveillance, Henk will be responsible for coordinating and managing surveillance operations and observe and record gaming activities to help safeguard casino assets and provide a safe environment for patrons and employees. Under the direction of the Complex GM, this position is accountable for assisting in the design and development as well as the actual implementation of the policies and procedures of the Surveillance department.

Gislaine Croes joined the Aruba Marriott family on August 9, 2006 as an Activities Attendant for the Surf Club. Since October 2013 Gislaine has been fulfilling the role of Assistant Activities/Recreation Manager for the Surf and Ocean Club. Now Gislaine is ready to move up to her next role as Recreation Manager for the Resort, where she will be responsible for the overall operations of the Recreation/Health Club Department at the Resort and will be managing the pool and activities staff and providing ongoing coaching and training to associates.

The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino congratulates Yazira, Henk and Gislaine with their new positions and wishes them the best of luck in their new roles. □

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## Durant to have another surgery, miss rest of season

CLIFF BRUNT

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) —

NBA MVP Kevin Durant will miss the rest of the season and have bone graft surgery next week to treat a fractured bone in his right foot.

The Oklahoma City Thunder had said last week he likely would be shut down for the season. The team was trying to figure out why his pain remained long after he was supposed to be able to play.

General manager Sam Presti said Friday the team expects Durant to return to basketball activities within the four to six months.

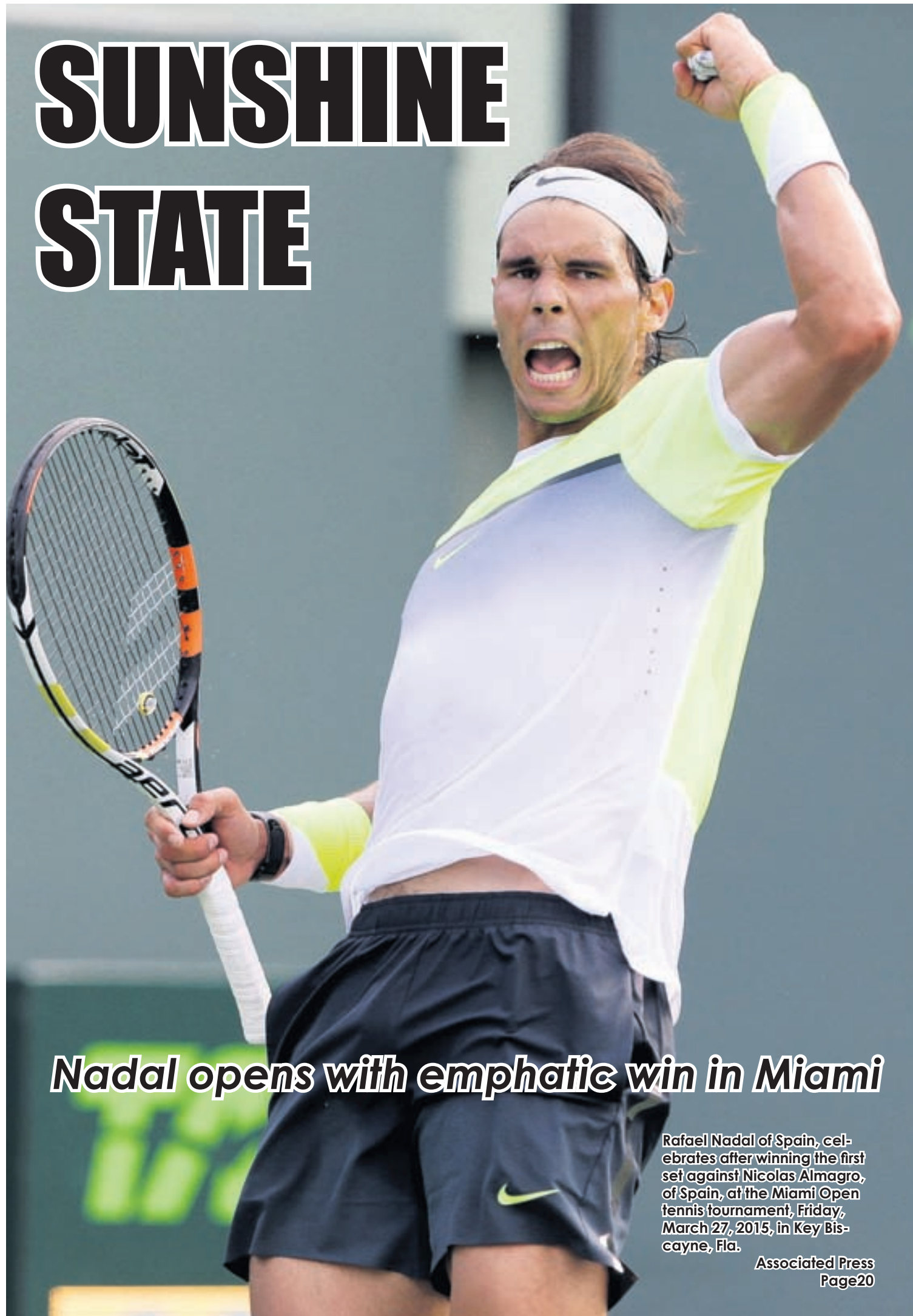
He said this decision was aimed at Durant's "long-term health and stability" and represented a consensus of Durant and his representatives, specialists and the team. The procedure was termed the "most proactive and recommended approach."

The Thunder are in position to make the playoffs without Durant, but they clearly will miss one of the game's most dynamic players. Durant last played Feb. 19 before the discomfort became too much to bear. He has played in just 27 games, averaging 25.4 points, 6.6 rebounds and 4.1 assists.

Durant had his initial surgery in October and had been healing well. But in late February, he had a procedure to replace a screw that was rubbing against another bone. After that second surgery, the Thunder expected him to return in one to two weeks.

Continued on Page 18

# SUNSHINE STATE



## Nadal opens with emphatic win in Miami

Rafael Nadal of Spain, celebrates after winning the first set against Nicolas Almagro, of Spain, at the Miami Open tennis tournament, Friday, March 27, 2015, in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Associated Press  
Page 20



## Durant

Continued from Page 17

Durant then consulted with three foot and ankle specialists. It was determined there still was pain from the rubbing, plus regression in the initial break. It was then decided to proceed with the bone graft, Presti said. A week ago, Presti said Durant was struggling and the team did not want to rush him back. When asked if it would be best to end Durant's season, Presti said: "Essentially, that's the direction that we're taking right now."

Presti said the bone graft is a common procedure to fix the less than 10 percent of such foot operations that don't work out.

"While everyone is disappointed that Kevin falls into that group, we are encouraged that the bone graft procedure has historically demonstrated long-term health and stability," Presti said. □



In this March 4, 2015, file photo, injured Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant, center, watches from the bench with guard D.J. Augustin, right, and assistant coach Mark Bryant, left, during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers in Oklahoma City.

Associated Press

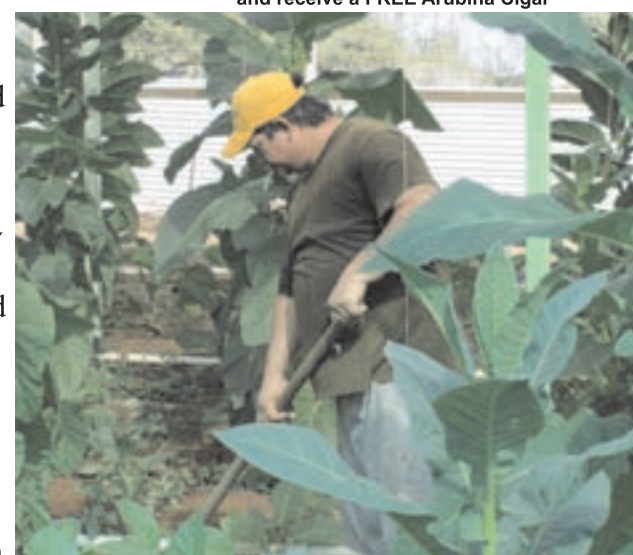
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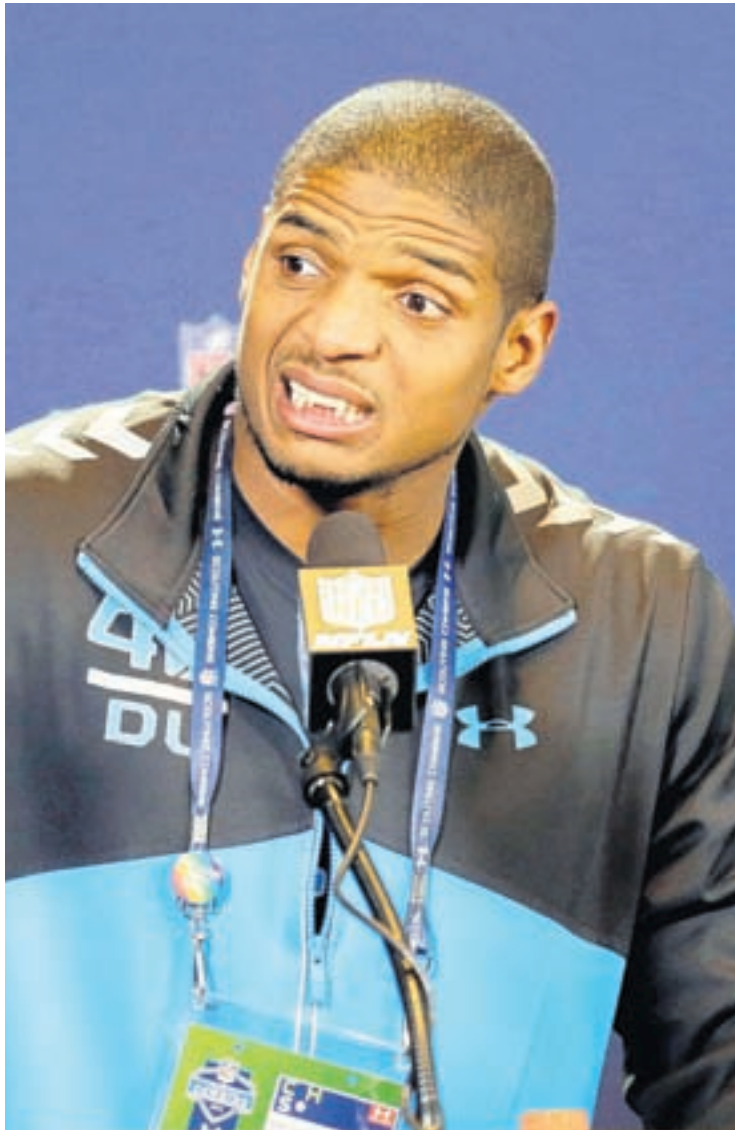
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In this Feb. 22, 2014, file photo, Missouri defensive end Michael Sam speaks during a news conference at the NFL football scouting combine in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

## Michael Sam: Gay NFL players have reached out to him

**The Associated Press**

**DALLAS (AP)** — Michael Sam says there are “a lot” of gay players in the NFL and some have reached out to him.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Sam gave a speech Thursday at the Dallas Holocaust Museum and took questions from

the audience.

Sam said: “I’m just saying there is a lot of us.” He added he’d never out a player who confided in him, but “there’s some famous people.” Sam came out before last year’s NFL draft. The defensive end from Missouri was selected in the seventh round by the St. Louis

Rams and cut in training camp. The Dallas Cowboys signed him to their practice squad but released him in October.

He’s currently a free agent. Sam revealed he’s not talked to his father since Michael Sam Sr. criticized his son’s sexuality shortly after he came out. □

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## 15-year-old American CiCi Bellis advances at Miami Open

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

**KEY BISCAINE, Fla. (AP)** — Precocious amateur CiCi Bellis says she's ready to take on the best of the pros — Serena Williams.

Bellis, a 15-year-old American who made a big splash at last year's U.S. Open, advanced Friday to a potential third-round match

against Williams by beating Zarina Diyas 6-2, 6-1.

Williams was scheduled to play a second-round match Friday night against Monica Niculescu. Bellis was already relishing the chance to take on the 19-time Grand Slam champion.

"It's going to be really fun," Bellis said. "I have nothing

to lose, so I'm just going to play my game and see what happens."

Sloane Stephens won an all-American match on the stadium court, converting five of six break-point chances to beat No. 17 Madison Keys 6-4, 6-2. It was the first meeting between the two Fed Cup teammates, and Keys teared up



**Ana Ivanovic, of Serbia, returns the ball to Irina Falconi, of the United States, during their match at the Miami Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., Friday, March 27, 2015.**

Associated Press

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near the end of her loss.

"I just kind of let the emotions get to me," the 20-year-old Keys said. "It's like you're having a really terrible day, but my terrible day is in front of hundreds of people and then broadcast on TV. That's not always fun."

No. 2-seeded Rafael Nadal, showing no ill effects from an ankle injury suffered in practice Monday, defeated fellow Spaniard Nicolas Almagro 6-4, 6-2. Nadal improved to 11-1 against Almagro.

Others advancing in the women's draw included No. 3 Simona Halep, the titlist last week at Indian Wells. She won 6-4, 2-6, 6-1 against wild card Nicole Vaidisova, a two-time Grand Slam semifinalist mounting a comeback from two shoulder operations.

Two-time champion Andy Murray beat American Donald Young 6-4, 6-2. Other men's winners included No. 7 Stan Wawrinka, No. 8 Tomas Berdych and No. 25 Bernard Tomic. American Sam Querrey had 19 aces

but lost to No. 15 Kevin Anderson 6-7 (5), 7-6 (3), 6-4.

Novak Djokovic lost in doubles and plays his opening singles match Saturday night.

Two-time champion Victoria Azarenka reached the third round by beating No. 20 Jelena Jankovic 6-1, 6-1. Azarenka faced 13 break points and saved them all.

"I stayed composed," Azarenka said. "I was very sure what I had to do, and I was really executing that."

Bellis became the youngest player to win a match at the U.S. Open since 1996 when she upset 12th-seeded Dominika Cibulkova last August. Suddenly a celebrity, Bellis then lost to Diyas in the second round.

She avenged that defeat Friday with much less fanfare.

"This one I think I played a lot smarter," Bellis said. "At the U.S. Open I was really like caught up in all the kind of hype that was going on. But this one I was just really focused and played my game. I think I did what I needed to do to win really well." □



# Kings edge Islanders, improve to 3-0 on trip

The Associated Press

UNIONDALE, New York (AP)

— Anze Kopitar scored with 4:23 left and defenseman Alec Martinez had two assists as the Los Angeles Kings won the third straight game of their road trip by beating the slumping New York Islanders 3-2 on Thursday. Kopitar, who had a goal and five assists in his previous three games, got to a deflected puck off a drive by defenseman Andrej Sekera and fired it past Jaroslav Halak for his 16th goal. Jonathan Quick made 25 saves in his 400th NHL game. He has won at New Jersey, the New York Rangers, and the Islanders on this trip that has two games left. Nick Shore netted his first career goal in his 28th game, and Tyler Toffoli also scored for the playoff-hopeful Kings.

**PREDATORS 3, LIGHTNING 2**

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Pekka Rinne made 28 saves for his 40th win as the Nashville Predators moved into first place in the Central Division. Mike Ribeiro, Paul Gaustad and Mike Santorelli scored for the Predators, who took a one-point lead over St. Louis. The Blues have played one fewer game. Rinne made a pad save on Alex Killorn's in-close backhand early in the third. The goalie had a career-best 43 wins in 2011-12. Tampa Bay got goals from Vladislav Namestnikov and Brian Boyle.

**DUCKS 3, BRUINS 2**

BOSTON (AP) — Ryan Getzlaf scored 3:09 into overtime to lift the Anaheim Ducks to victory.

Getzlaf, who also assisted on Corey Perry's tying goal late in the third period, beat Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask from the slot with a wrist shot over his shoulder to snap the Ducks' two-game skid.

Ducks goalie Frederik Andersen stopped 27 shots.

Loui Eriksson and Ryan Spooner scored for the Bruins. Rask finished with 29

saves.

Boston dropped its sixth straight but tied Ottawa for the eighth seed in the Eastern Conference.

**RANGERS 5, SENATORS 1**

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Chris Kreider had two goals and an assist as the New York Rangers clinched a playoff spot.

Dan Boyle, Mats Zuccarello and Tanner Glass also scored for the Rangers, who have 101 points.

Cam Talbot made 23 saves for New York, which handed Ottawa's Andrew Hammond his first regulation-time loss.

Curtis Lazar scored for the Senators.

**HURRICANES 5, PENGUINS 2**

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — Eric Staal had a goal and two assists for the Carolina Hurricanes.

Ryan Murphy, Jay McClement, Alexander Semin and Andrej Nestrasil also scored for Carolina, which had been 0-3-3 in its last six home games since a 7-4 win over Edmonton on March 8. Brad Malone had a pair of assists as Carolina won for the first time in its last five home games against the Penguins.

Brandon Sutter and Ian Cole scored for the Penguins. Carolina goalie Cam Ward had 27 saves.

**CAPITALS 3, DEVILS 2, OT**

WASHINGTON (AP) — On a quiet night for Alex Ovechkin and Niklas Backstrom, the Washington Capitals got rare goals from Matt Niskanen, Karl Alzner and Eric Fehr, along with 29 saves from Braden Holtby.

Defenseman Niskanen's fourth goal of the season came 73 seconds into the extra period, off an assist from Alzner.

Washington led 2-0, but the Devils got one goal on Travis Zajac's short-handed score with a little more than five minutes left in the second period, then tied it on Steve Bernier's goal with 29.2 seconds remaining in regulation.

San Jose Sharks center Joe Pavelski (8) is checked by Detroit Red Wings defenseman Niklas Kronwall (55) as goalie Petr Mrazek stops a shot during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Detroit Thursday, March 26, 2015.

Associated Press

Ovechkin entered leading the NHL in goals, Backstrom came in No. 1 in assists, and both were in the top five in points.

**COYOTES 4, SABRES 3**

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Sam Gagner scored 56 seconds into overtime to lift the Arizona Coyotes to the win over Buffalo on, earning cheers from the last-place Sabres' fans hoping to get the No. 1 overall pick in the NHL Draft.

Jordan Szwarz, Oliver Ekman-Larsson and David Moss also scored for Arizona, which has won consecutive games for just the second time in 2015.

The 29th-place Coyotes moved six points ahead of the Sabres, delighting the home crowd clamoring for the best odds at the top pick.

Tyler Ennis, Brian Gionta and Rasmus Ristolainen scored in the Sabres' fourth-consecutive loss.

**SHARKS 6, RED WINGS 4**

DETROIT (AP) — Patrick Marleau scored twice and Antti Niemi made 30 saves. Marc-Edouard Vlasic, Matt Nieto, Chris Tierney and Logan Couture also had goals for San Jose, which ended a two-game skid.

Detroit got goals from Tomas Jurco, Tomas Tatar, Stephen Weiss and Justin Abdelkader as it dropped its second straight at home. Jimmy Howard made seven saves, but allowed three goals in the first before being pulled for backup Petr Mrazek.

**PANTHERS 4, MAPLE LEAFS 1**

TORONTO (AP) — Brandon Pirri scored twice for the Florida Panthers to send Toronto to its seventh straight loss. □



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FRI 6:55 | 9:00 | 11:35

SAT 1:55 | 6:55 | 9:00 | 11:35

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SUN & HOL 7:20 | 9:40

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MON-THURS 4:00 | 5:30 | 6:30 | 8:00

FRI 4:00 | 5:30 | 6:30 | 8:00 | 10:30

SAT 3:00 | 4:00 | 5:30 | 6:30 | 8:00 | 10:30

SUN & HOL 3:00 | 4:00 | 5:30 | 6:30 | 8:00

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# David Ortiz defends his reputation in column

**The Associated Press**

Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz is certain on this point: "I never knowingly took any steroids." And this, too: "I deserve to be in the Hall of Fame."

The remarks by the 39-year-old designated hitter came in a column Thursday for The Players' Tribune, a website founded by Derek Jeter that gives professional athletes a platform.

Ortiz also voiced his displeasure that he will "always be considered a cheater" to his detractors. He contends that nobody in baseball has been tested more often for performance-enhancing drugs — more than 80 times since 2004.

"I have never failed a single one of those tests and I never will," Ortiz wrote.

In 2009, Ortiz was on a list of 104 players who allegedly tested positive during Major League Baseball's 2003 survey of steroid use — results that were supposed to be anonymous. Ortiz later said he wound up on the list because he used nutritional supplements and was careless about their contents.

"Most guys were taking over-the-counter supple-



In this March 24, 2014, file photo, Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz speaks during a news conference in Sarasota, Fla.

ments then. Most guys are still taking over-the-counter supplements. If it's legal, ballplayers take it," Ortiz wrote. "Why? Because if you make it to the World Series, you play 180 games. Really think about that for a second. 180 games. Your kids could be sick, your wife could be yelling at you, your dad could be dying — nobody cares.

"Nobody cares if you have

a bone bruise in your wrist or if you have a pulled groin. You're an entertainer. The people want to see you hit a 95-mile-an-hour fastball over a damn 37-foot wall." Ortiz said he had two drug testers arrive early at his house in the Dominican Republic one day over the offseason. His kids are so used to them showing up, he said, they were laughing and taking pictures as the

testers drew Ortiz's blood in the kitchen. Ortiz said to them: "Let me tell you something. The only thing you're going to find in my blood is rice and beans." Added Ortiz: "In some people's minds, I will always be considered a cheater," emphasizing his point with an expletive.

Ortiz is a .285 hitter with 466 career homers and 1,533 RBIs. He believes his num-

bers are Hall of Fame worthy.

"I've won three World Series since MLB introduced comprehensive drug testing. I've performed year after year after year. But if a bunch of writers who have never swung a bat want to tell me it's all for nothing, OK. Why do they write my legacy?" Ortiz wrote. "In 75 years, when I'm dead and gone, I won't care if I'm in the Hall of Fame. I won't care if a bunch of baseball writers know the truth about who I am in my soul and what I have done in this game. I care that my children know the truth."

Big Papi said his mental preparation was one of his biggest attributes.

"They're only going to remember my power," Ortiz wrote. "They're not going to remember the hours and hours and hours of work in the film room. They're not going to remember the BP. They're not going to remember me for my intelligence.

"Despite all I've done in this game, I'm just the big DH from the Dominican. They turn you into a character, man." □

**Associated Press**

## Area resident Jimmy Walker takes lead in Texas Open

**TIM PRICE**

**Associated Press**

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — Jimmy Walker shot a 5-under 67 on Friday in the Texas Open to take a one-stroke lead in his hometown event.

After a 35-minute drive from his suburban home, Walker enjoyed a neighborly stroll at TPC San Antonio to reach 6-under 138. He won the Sony Open in Hawaii in January after winning three times last season.

Walker overtook first-round leader Charley Hoffman with three straight birdies late in his round.

Hoffman, 8 under at the turn, uncharacteristically let a good round get away on the Oaks Course with three bogeys on his second

nine. He finished with a 72 to drop into a tie for second with Aaron Baddeley. Hoffman has two top-three finishes in his previous four appearances at the Texas Open.

Baddeley had a 71.

Kevin Na, who infamously took 16 strokes on a par 4 in the event four years ago, had a 68 to join Texan Jordan Spieth at 4 under. The 21-year Spieth, coming off a playoff victory two weeks ago at Innisbrook, followed his opening 71 with a 69.

The gusts near 40 mph that blew Thursday morning continued to subside, though play started Friday with temperatures in the 40s.

The improved conditions

packed the leaderboard with nine players within four strokes of Walker. That included Phil Mickelson, continuing to cram for the Masters less than two weeks off, at 2 under after a second-round 72. He was tied for sixth.

FedEx Cup champion Billy Horschel (70), Zach Johnson (71), Chris Kirk (71) and 2011 winner Brendan Steele (68) also were 2 under.

Johnson felt a jarring sensation in his right ring finger when he hit a rock while swinging from the native area to the right of the 12th fairway. He continued and expects to play this weekend.

Francisco Molinari, the former European Ryder Cup



Jimmy Walker hits from the 10th tee during the second round of the Valero Texas Open golf tournament, Friday, March 27, 2015, in San Antonio.

**Associated Press**

player, withdrew before the round because of a wrist injury he said happened while shooting 81 in the wind Thursday.

Jim Furyk and Dustin Johnson managed to survive for the weekend as the cut dropped a stroke in the

afternoon to 6 over. Both made it on the number, and Furyk kept a streak of consecutive cuts made, now at 33. Steve Stricker, not playing this week, has the best active streak at 35. Martin Kaymer wasn't close. □



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**Stay a few hours. TAKE EXTRA CASH****Meerkat vs. Periscope: Live-streaming app battle & buzz****BARBARA ORTUTAY****AP Technology Writer****NEW YORK (AP)** — Download Periscope, Twitter's just-launched live video-streaming app, and you'll find people broadcasting all sorts of mundane stuff: waiting for AT&T to fix their wiring, getting out of bed in Silicon Valley, looking outside their office window in Chicago. Watch the videos, and you might ask yourself, is this really the next big thing?

It could be. Check back in a few months, and you'll likely see much more enticing content. After all, the first tweet, sent by co-founder Jack Dorsey in 2006, simply said "just setting up my twtr." Now nearly 300 million people tweet photos and messages every month for work, play and social commentary.

Twitter bought the company behind Periscope earlier this year for a reported \$100 million. The launch comes in the heels of rival Meerkat's breakout at the South By Southwest Interactive

tech gathering in Texas. The simple app allows people to live stream anything at the touch of a button and dominated conversations at the festival. The app used to let users automatically tweet live streams too, but since buying Periscope, Twitter limited Meerkat's access. Meerkat, rightfully worried about becoming second fiddle so quickly, announced Thursday that it scored an additional \$14 million in venture capital funding.

Here are a few things to know about the emerging trend of live video streaming.

**WHY NOW?**

Meerkat and Periscope are not the first live-streaming apps by any means. But they are emerging as more people are shooting video with smartphones and sharing their experiences on Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram and a slew of other platforms. And when it comes to business marketing, smaller, emerging services might be more effective than getting lost

in the shuffle on big social networks, according to Forrester Research.

"Marketers who prioritize investments in Facebook and Twitter's over-fished waters are missing a big opportunity to engage

earlier this month. The app initially let users automatically tweet live streams to their followers, but that came to a halt after Twitter acquired Periscope and limited Meerkat's access to its service. While

**This Friday, Oct. 18, 2013, file photo shows a Twitter app on an iPhone screen, in New York.****Associated Press**

with customers on smaller social networks with emerging platforms like video," Forrester's James McQuivey and Julie Ask recently wrote.

**MEERKAT VS. PERISCOPE** Meerkat was one of the big surprise hits of SXSW

the two have many similarities, the automatic linking with Twitter followers gives Periscope a big leg up.

Other differences: Meerkat streams are public-only and live-only. Periscope lets users limit who

can see their broadcasts and offers viewers the opportunity to send heart icons to streamers, akin to Facebook's "Like" button. Video streams also can be saved to replay later.

Neither app works without Twitter — you'll need an account to get started. Facebook, so far, has been silent on this front.

**POTENTIAL?**

Remember when sharing a photo of your breakfast seemed like a crazy thing no one would ever want to do? It wasn't that long ago. Live streams might seem equally crazy now, only to become second-nature in just a few months. From news broadcasts to travel adventures and birthday parties and weddings shown to far-away relatives, the possibilities are all there. All you need is a Twitter account and a solid Internet connection on your smartphone. For companies, there's major potential for advertising and a way for brands to connect directly with customers. □

**Microsoft wants U.S. suppliers to give employees paid time off****NEW YORK (AP)** — Microsoft said Thursday that it will push its U.S. suppliers to give their employees paid time off — but that only applies for the staffers that do work for Microsoft.

Microsoft said it has about 2,000 U.S. suppliers, who provide services such as maintenance and security. The technology company does not know how many of its suppliers don't provide paid time off. It has heard from workers and media reports that some companies don't

provide the benefit.

The announcement comes at a time when paid sick leave and income inequality have become hot topics. Earlier this year, President Barack Obama called on Congress to pass measures that would allow workers to earn up to seven days of paid leave.

Microsoft Corp. said suppliers with 50 or more employees will be asked to provide at least 15 days of paid time off for employees that mainly work with the Red-

mond, Washington, company. They can offer either 15 unrestricted paid days off or 10 days of paid vacation and five days of sick leave. Microsoft said it will give suppliers 12 months to make the changes.

A Microsoft spokeswoman said the rules will be written into future contracts and those that don't comply may be dropped as a supplier. She said the company did not discuss the issue with suppliers before the plan was announced Thursday. □

**This July 3, 2014 file photo shows Microsoft Corp. signage outside the Microsoft Visitor Center in Redmond, Wash.****Associated Press**



# Stocks close with slight gains, but still end the week lower

**KEN SWEET**

**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A tough week on the stock market ended quietly Friday. Major indexes notched modest gains, not nearly enough to make up for the

panies start releasing their first-quarter results next month. The biggest sell-off came on Wednesday, when a report showed orders at U.S. factories for long-lasting manufactured goods fell

conflict, with Saudi Arabia and its allies bombing Shiite rebels allied with Iran, while Egyptian officials said a ground assault will follow the airstrikes. Iran denounced the Saudi-led air campaign, calling it “a



**Trader Thomas Kay works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Major indexes notched modest gains Friday, but not nearly enough to make up for the four previous days of losses. It wound up being the second-worst week for the market so far this year.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

four previous days of losses. It wound up being the second-worst week for the market so far this year.

The Dow Jones industrial average remains down slightly for 2015, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index is essentially flat.

There was no one major catalyst to move the market one way or another Friday. Biotechnology stocks, battered over the last week, were among the top gainers, while energy stocks lagged as the price of oil fell.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 34.43 points, or 0.2 percent, to 17,712.66. The S&P 500 rose 4.87 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,061.02 and the Nasdaq composite rose 27.86 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,891.22.

Stocks fell most of the week due to a combination of weaker-than-expected economic data and concerns that the rapid rise of the dollar may crimp U.S. corporate earnings. Com-

panies in February, the latest disappointing data suggesting the U.S. economy has hit a soft patch. The Dow plunged nearly 300 points that day.

The question is whether the U.S. economy is really slowing down or whether the phenomenon can be blamed on the nasty winter weather. In addition to first-quarter earnings reports, investors will also be watching the Labor Department's monthly job markets survey, due out April 3, for insight into how the economy is doing.

“I'm trying to be as forward-looking as possible here. Clearly the weather had some sort of impact this quarter, but I still believe U.S. economic growth is strong,” said Scott Wren, a global equity strategist at Wells Fargo Advisors.

The turmoil in Yemen has caused heightened volatility in oil markets this week as well. The tensions have erupted into a regional

dangerous step.”

While the price of U.S. crude fell sharply Friday, it still finished much higher for week, up more than 10 percent. It was the biggest weekly gain for oil since March 2009.

Benchmark U.S. crude fell 5 percent, or \$2.56, to close at \$48.87 a barrel in New York. U.S. crude finished last week at \$45.72. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, fell 7 cents to close at \$56.41 in London.

In other futures trading on the NYMEX:

— Wholesale gasoline fell 8.4 cents to close at \$1.798 a gallon.

— Heating oil fell 5.8 cents to close at \$1.728 a gallon.

— Natural gas fell 8.2 cents to close at \$2.590 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Prices for U.S. government bonds rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 1.96 percent from 1.99 percent late Thursday. □

## Report: GDP grew 2.2% in 4th quarter, final estimate shows

**NELSON D. SCHWARTZ**

**© 2015 New York Times**

The U.S. economy grew at a rate of slightly more than 2 percent as 2014 drew to a close, but economists fear some of that momentum flagged in the first quarter of this year.

At an annualized rate of 2.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2014, the Commerce Department's estimate of growth in the period, released Friday, was unchanged from an earlier estimate released in late February.

This was the final revision by government statisticians who track the economy's performance at the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Before the report, economists on Wall Street had expected the growth rate to be revised upward to 2.4 percent.

While decent, the economy's performance in October, November and December was well below the 5 percent pace of growth in the third quarter and the 4.6 percent rate in the second quarter.

Even so, at 2.2 percent, the pace of economic expansion late last year represents healthier growth than is likely to be seen in the current quarter, which ends Tuesday.

Although the job market has been showing real signs of life, with the unemployment rate's falling to 5.5 percent in February as employers hired 295,000 new workers, other yardsticks have been anemic.

This week, the government reported that durable goods orders fell last month, and retail sales had also been weak, despite consumers' having more cash in their pockets because of lower energy prices.

One problem last year, rising exports, has faded recently, hurt by a strong dollar and weak conditions in key overseas markets like Europe and Brazil. In particular, the decline

of the euro against the dollar has made U.S.-made goods more expensive for European consumers.

Different components of economic performance within the report did change, but in the end, the overall effect of increased estimates in some sectors was canceled out by downward revisions in others.

For example, the estimates for consumer spending and exports were revised slightly upward, but they were effectively washed out by slower inventory additions than first thought. In late 2014, the government said Friday, consumer spending increased at a seasonally adjusted rate of 4.4 percent, better than the previous 4.2 percent estimate made last month.

Guy Berger, U.S. economist at RBS, said smaller stockpiles than initially estimated for last quarter actually suggested slightly healthier growth in the current quarter.

“Less inventory is good for the future because it provides a little tailwind for future production,” he said. “If you're going to have downward revisions, it's better to have it be in inventories than anything else.”

Still, like other economists on Wall Street, he foresees a slow start to growth in 2015, estimating that economic output will rise in the first quarter at an annual rate of just over 1 percent. He cautions that the cold winter most likely held back consumer spending, as did a weakening trade balance and potentially lower business investment, especially in the energy sector.

Berger expects the economy's arc to rise later in the year, with the growth rate average just over 3 percent in the second half of the year, helped by healthier consumer spending. □



# Consumer sentiment slips in March on bad weather

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Bad weather and rising gasoline prices pushed U.S. consumer sentiment a bit lower in March.

The University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index slipped to 93 this month from 95.4 in February. Richard Curtin, chief economist for the survey, notes that consumer opti-

mism was the highest in a decade for the first three months of 2015 despite the dip in March.

Sentiment shot up to an 11-year high in January, then retreated modestly in February and March. One reason for the pull-back: Gasoline prices have been ticking back after a sharp drop in the second half of 2014. Gasoline costs an average

\$2.43 a gallon, up from low of \$2.03 a gallon in late January; but prices at the pump are still down from \$3.54 a year ago, according to AAA.

The March drop in confidence was caused entirely by falling confidence among low-income households, which are especially sensitive to high utility bills in the winter. Confidence rose for mid-

and high-income households. Another gauge of consumers' spirits, the Conference Board's confidence index, slipped slightly in February but remained near the highest levels since before the Great Recession.

Michigan's Curtin predicted that an improving job market would boost consumer spending the rest of the year.

The Commerce Department reported Friday that consumer spending rose at a 4.4 percent annual rate from October through December, the fastest pace since the start of 2006. Overall, the U.S. economy grew at a 2.2 percent pace the last three months of 2014, down from 5 percent from July through September. □

# BlackBerry reports \$28 million profit in 4th quarter

IAN AUSTEN

© 2015 New York Times

**OTTAWA, Ontario** - John S. Chen, executive chairman of the ailing smartphone maker BlackBerry, was again asking for patience Friday after the company produced a surprise, but slim, profit while also posting an unexpected drop in revenue.

The \$28 million profit in BlackBerry's fourth quarter was mainly thanks to a patent sale and tax recovery. The company lost \$106 million on an operating basis. For the entire year, the company lost \$304 million on revenue of \$3.3 billion. Despite the introduction of two new phones and a push by the company to sell software that allows businesses and governments to manage all of their employees' mobile phones regardless of their brand, fourth-quarter revenue was \$660 million, down from \$793 million in the previous quarter. Analysts had expected revenue of about \$792 million. The revenue drop suggests

that the company has yet to revive its phone business, said Brian Colello, an analyst at the firm Morningstar. During the period, BlackBerry offered two new phones: the Classic, which restored features found on older BlackBerrys, and the Passport, which has an unusual square screen. They were aimed at BlackBerry's traditional customers, like people in the financial industry. Neither has sold well.

Although Colello acknowledged that neither phone was widely available in the United States during much of the final quarter, he said that they sold "in enough countries to potentially make a dent in the quarter."

There was one bright spot. ITG Investment Research reported that retail data it collected in BlackBerry's home market in Canada showed that BlackBerry sales at Rogers Communications, the country's largest wireless carrier, rose by 27 percent in the final quarter of last year compared to the third

quarter. Sales at Bell Canada were up 12 percent, but BlackBerry sales fell by 13 percent at Telus, the other

and 20 percent over the same period a year earlier. But Chen told analysts that an older version of the com-

pany's gain entry into companies where iPhones and Android phones vastly outnumber BlackBerrys.



BlackBerry CEO John Chen shows off the Passport, left, and Classic models in Waterloo, Ontario. (AP Photo/Dave Chidley)

large carrier in Canada. ITG added that "the solid quarterly trends seen at Canadian carriers may not be representative of global sales trends."

BlackBerry's software business rose by 24 percent over the previous quarter

pany's mobile device management software, which is more oriented toward BlackBerrys, was outselling the new version, which the company is promoting heavily.

BlackBerry executives hope that new software will help

Chen said he expected buyers of the older software would upgrade soon. New arrangements with carriers to sell the software on BlackBerry's behalf, and for a share of the revenue, should also increase sales, Chen said. □

# Apple CEO Tim Cook plans to give away most of his fortune

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Apple CEO Tim Cook is joining a long list of magnates promising to give away most of the wealth that they amass during their careers.

Cook mentioned his intentions in a story about him published Thursday by Fortune magazine. After paying for the college education of his 10-year-old nephew, Cook says he will donate the rest of his money to philanthropic causes.

Apple Inc. declined to comment Friday.

The charitable commitment echoes pledges made by other executives far richer than Cook, who is 54.

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett and Oracle Chairman Larry Ellison are among more than 120 wealthy people and families who have announced they will give away their fortunes.

Gates, Buffett and Ellison each have a net worth of at least \$54 billion and rank among the five richest people in the world, according to Forbes magazine.

Most of Cook's wealth is tied up in an Apple grant of restricted grant that he received in 2011 when he succeeded Steve Jobs as Apple's CEO. That grant is now worth about \$860 million. Most of the restricted grant will vest in separate

tranches next year and in 2021.

Apple can rescind some of the restricted grant if the company's stock lags the performance of the Standard & Poor's 500 for an extended stretch. That hasn't been an issue during the past year, with Apple's stock surging by about 60 percent to lift the company's market value above \$700 billion. The S&P 500 has gained 11 percent over that period.

Since Cook became CEO, Apple's stock has more than doubled to create about \$370 billion in shareholder wealth. The Cupertino, California, company also has paid out about \$27 billion in shareholder dividends.

Cook signaled his interest in philanthropy early in his tenure when he set up a program committing Apple to match each of its employees' donations up to \$10,000 annually. □



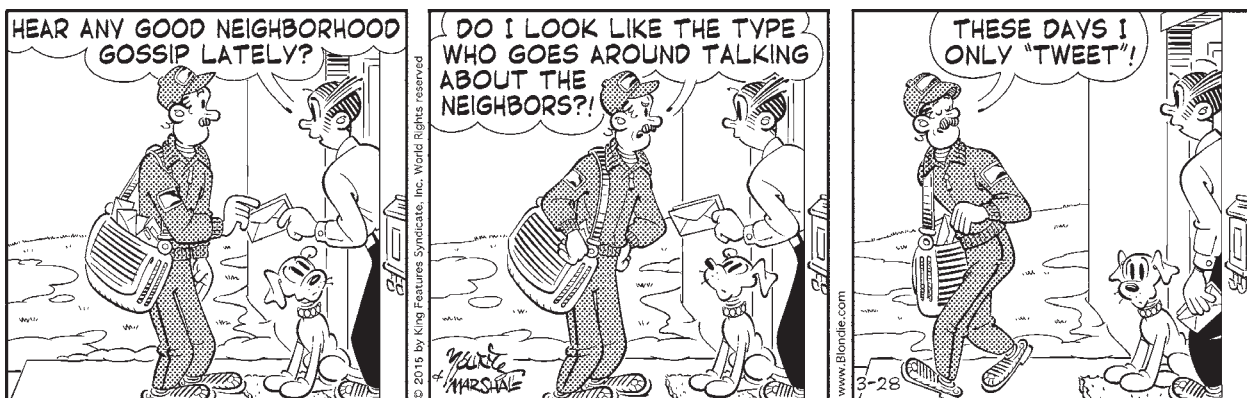
## Mutts



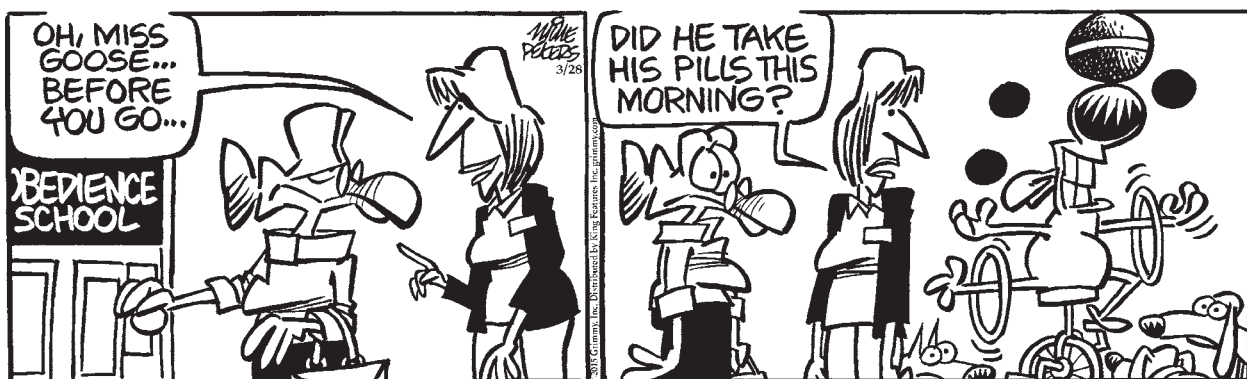
## 6 Chix



## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

		4				1		
	3						7	
9			4	2				5
			5		4	6		
		3				9		
		2	7		1			
6				1	7			9
	9						6	
		8				4		

Difficulty Level ★★ ★★

3/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

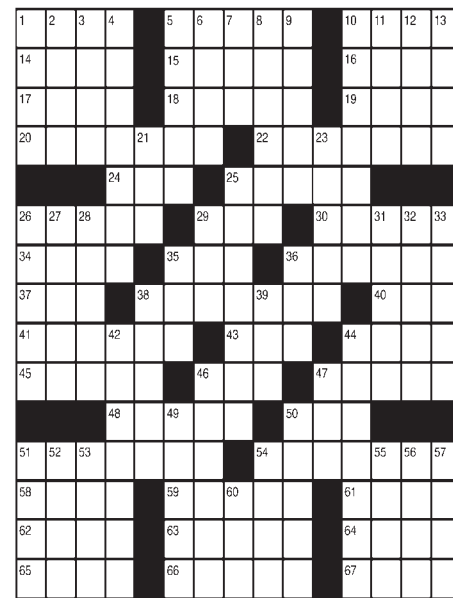
7	6	5	8	4	9	3	2	1
9	8	2	7	3	1	6	4	5
4	3	1	6	2	5	9	7	8
8	4	9	1	6	2	5	3	7
6	2	7	9	5	3	8	1	4
1	5	3	4	7	8	2	9	6
3	9	8	5	1	7	4	6	2
5	1	4	2	9	6	7	8	3
2	7	6	3	8	4	1	5	9

## ACROSS

- 1 Officials at a baseball game
- 5 44th U.S. President
- 10 Slightly open
- 14 Twelve inches
- 15 Ran fast
- 16 \_\_\_ away; galloped off
- 17 Skunk's defense
- 18 Amphitheater
- 19 Makes an offer on eBay
- 20 Chooses
- 22 Opposed to
- 24 Presidential nickname
- 25 Perfume
- 26 Tiny units of weight
- 29 Supped
- 30 Snake's poison
- 34 Word of disgust
- 35 Spanish aunt
- 36 Long angry speech
- 37 Commotion
- 38 \_\_\_ arts; judo, karate, etc.
- 40 By way of
- 41 Singer Holiday
- 43 Traveler's stopover
- 44 Attack & injure
- 45 Sings alone
- 46 Feathery scarf
- 47 Coconut trees
- 48 \_\_\_ for; desire
- 50 Irrate
- 51 Prohibition on trade
- 54 Way too picky
- 58 Fuel, for some
- 59 Record's center
- 61 Not bananas
- 62 Sentry's cry
- 63 Body of water
- 64 \_\_\_ house; realtor's event
- 65 Exclusively
- 66 In what place?
- 67 Latest info

## DOWN

- 1 Eerie saucers, for short



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/28/15

## Friday's Puzzle Solved

2	Pie à la	51	Author A.A.
3	Combine, as funds	52	Resound
4	Brooks	53	Formal dance
5	Preach	54	Phobia
6	Saloons	55	Cloak
7	Top card	56	Recognized
8	"Dennis the ___"	57	Strong urges
9	Old saying	60	Buzzing insect
10	Dispute settler		
11	Bring together		
12	Tallies up		
13	Take a break		
21	Major network		
23	Blacksmith's iron block		
25	Train depot		
26	Snatches		
27	Standard car feature		
28	Ring-shaped island		
29	Broadcast		
31	Part of USNA		
32	Hatred		
33	Lunch & dinner		
35	Edison's initials		
36	Light brown		
38	Tightwad		

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3/28/15



# Iraq

Continued from Page 9

"We won't lift the siege against ISIS so that they can escape; we will chase them and kill them after the Americans stop the airstrikes in Tikrit." The Islamic State is also known as ISIS or ISIL.

Al-Kadhumi maintained, however, that the U.S. airstrikes were unnecessary. "We were one day away from liberating the city of Tikrit before the American-led coalition intervention, and now there is a sense of confusion," he said.

According to witnesses and Iraqi officials, airstrikes Friday included coalition warplanes as well as Iraq's small air force in bombing throughout the morning and afternoon. The day before, only Iraqi aircraft - Russian-made, Iranian-vintage Sukhoi Su-25 attack jets - were hitting targets around Tikrit during daylight hours, while Americans or other coalition aircraft were bombing at night.

Both nighttime and daytime bombing Thursday was particularly heavy, residents said, and officials said it was concentrated against Islamic State positions in and around the heavily fortified former palace of Saddam Hussein.

The Shiite militias' shift from truculence to acquiescence in Tikrit seemed tied to remarks at Friday prayer in Karbala by a spokesman for al-Sistani. Al-Sistani

had issued an edict that called for creating the popular mobilization committees last summer, when Baghdad and even Iraq's religious shrines in Karbala and Najaf appeared under threat and the regular Iraqi military was on the verge of collapse.

His remarks Friday, though, were widely interpreted as criticizing the militias for their objection to the Iraqi government's request for U.S. air support. "The security commanders in the field must get together and talk with the supreme command of the armed forces to always take the right decision," said Ahmed al-Safi, a spokesman for al-Sistani. "Having disagreements among the different sides could have bad results on military operations."

While those criticisms were delivered with indirection, as the ayatollah's pronouncements always are, his message was clear.

"The essential part of the mandate for the popular mobilization committees was the fatwa that was issued by Ayatollah Sistani," said Jabouri, the prime minister's spokesman. "So we're saying that it's very important that this message has also been endorsed by the marjiya." The marjiya is a term for al-Sistani's religious leadership.

Still, not every militia seemed to agree. The Nujabaa Brigade, an Iranian-linked organization with seasoned fighters who have fought on behalf of

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24/7

## NASA details plans to pluck rock off asteroid, explore it

**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

NASA is aiming to launch a rocket to an asteroid in five years and grab a boulder off of it — a stepping stone and training mission for an eventual trip sending humans to Mars.

The space agency Wednesday unveiled details of the \$1.25 billion plan to launch a solar-powered unmanned spaceship to an asteroid in December 2020. The ship would spend about a year circling the large space rock and pluck a 13-foot (4 meter) boulder off its surface using robotic arms. It would have three to five opportunities to grab the rock, said Robert Lightfoot, NASA's associate administrator.

The smaller rock would be hauled near the moon and parked in orbit around the moon. Using a giant rocket ship and the Orion crew capsule that are still being developed, two astronauts would fly to the smaller rock in 2025 and start exploring. Astronauts aboard Orion would dock with the robotic ship, make spacewalks, climbing around the mini-asteroid to inspect and document, and even grab a piece to return to Earth.

The smaller rock might not even be big enough for the two astronauts to stand on; it would have fit in the cargo bay of the now-retired space shuttles.

The mission will "demonstrate the capabilities we're going to need for further future human missions beyond low Earth orbit and then ultimately to Mars," Lightfoot said.

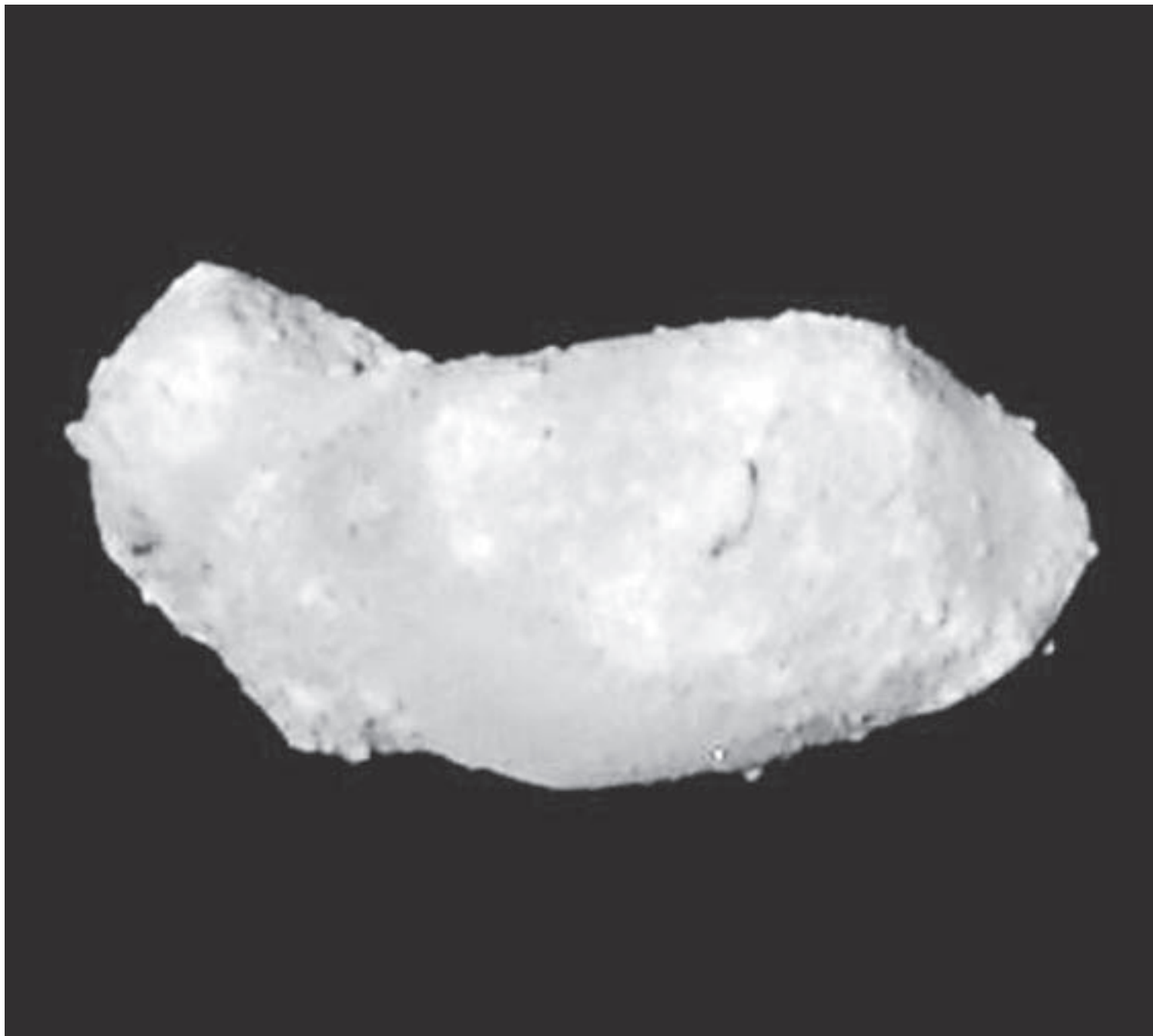
Lightfoot also identified the leading target. It's a 1,300-foot wide space

rock discovered in 2008 called 2008 EV5, making it somewhat larger than most of the asteroids that circle the sun near Earth.

cause it would test technologies and techniques "we're going to need when we go to another planetary body," Lightfoot

not include the larger costs of the rockets launching the spaceships to the asteroid and the smaller boulder.

oid, the mission will help with "planetary defense" techniques, learning how to nudge a threatening space rock out of harm's



**This Monday, Sept. 12, 2005 photo provided by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency shows an asteroid named Itokawa photographed by the Hayabusa probe.**

**Associated Press**

Two other space rocks are being considered, called Itokawa and Bennu.

NASA managers chose this option over another plan that would lasso or use a giant bag to grab an entire asteroid and haul it near the moon. The selected plan is about \$100 million more expense but it was picked by managers in a meeting Tuesday be-

said during a telephone press conference. Those include "soft landing" and grabbing technologies, he said.

A few years ago, the administration proposed sending astronauts to an asteroid and landing on it, but later changed that to bringing the asteroid closer to Earth.

The \$1.25 billion price does

The entire project called ARM for Asteroid Redirect Mission would also test new spacesuits for deep space, as opposed to Earth orbit, and may even help companies look at the idea of mining asteroids for precious metals, said NASA spokesman David Steitz.

Steitz said by getting closer to the large aster-

way. Scott Pace, space policy director at George Washington University and a NASA associate administrator in the George W. Bush administration, said the concept in some ways makes sense in terms of training, engineering and cost, but "it still leaves the larger questions: What this leads to and why?" □



# Vin Diesel says Oscars weighted against action films

LOUISE WATT  
Associated Press

**BEIJING (AP)** — Vin Diesel said Friday that the latest "Fast & Furious" film deserves a best picture Oscar but has two strikes against it when it comes to the Academy — it's an action flick and it's a sequel.

"Do I shy away from aiming high? No, I don't," said the 47-year-old actor, who has appeared in virtually all of the "Fast & Furious" action films based around fast cars. He spoke to The Associated Press while in Beijing to promote the new film.

"And yet we all know that there's a little stigma towards action films, we know it, we've heard people complain about it, we've heard Marvel complain about it, we've heard DC complain about it, and now Harry Potter, Hunger Games, Batman has never gotten a shot at that," he said.

Alluding to the fact that many of the recent Os-

car best picture winners haven't fared well at the box office, Diesel said: "The Oscars have been somewhat criticized in the last couple of years for maybe not being as populist as they could be, but we have a very powerful movie here."

He said that "Fast & Furious 7" has an "emotional toll," which may make people argue that it is more directed toward women. "We're actually responding to the fact that our woman audience has just increased and has either eclipsed or threatening to eclipse our male audience, we've seen that across the board," said Diesel, who also produces the Universal Pictures' movie.

Diesel said that the Academy hasn't given a best picture Oscar to a sequel since a 1974 movie — "The Godfather: Part II." However, the nod has gone more recently to the final film in a trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of



In this April 29, 2011, file photo, Actor Vin Diesel poses during the photo call of the movie "Fast and Furious 5", in Rome.

Associated Press

the King" in 2004.

In "Fast & Furious 7," Diesel plays street racer Dominic Toretto, whose family is threatened by Jason Statham's character, who is out for revenge for the death of his brother. Sta-

tham said audiences will be able to relate to the fact that both men are standing up for their family.

"All cultures around the world, wherever you go, everyone knows what family means," said Statham. He was also in Beijing to promote the movie and attend the China premiere, along with Mi-

chelle Rodriguez, who plays racer Letty Ortiz.

The film is one of the last movies starring Paul Walker, who died in a car crash during a break in the filming of "Fast & Furious 7" in November 2013. Walker was a passenger in the car, and investigators cited unsafe speed as a cause of the accident.

The movie was completed with help from Walker's brothers and is a tribute to him.

Rodriguez said Walker loved the world of racing and adrenaline sports.

"I'm going to celebrate him, and I'm going to celebrate everything that he represented about the celebration of life and the love of pushing life to its edge because there are individuals on this planet that can't live otherwise, they can't live ordinary lives cooped up hiding from danger and I'm one of those people and he was one of those people," she said.

"Fast & Furious 7," also known as "Furious 7," opens in the United States on April 3 and in China on April 12. □

## Put me in: Craig T. Nelson returning as Coach Fox in sequel

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Craig T. Nelson is getting back in the coaching game for NBC.

The network said that it has ordered 13 episodes of a sequel to the 1989-97 ABC sitcom "Coach" that starred Nelson as Hayden Fox, head coach of a college football team.

In the new series, nearly 20 years have passed and Fox has retired from coaching, NBC said Thursday. That's until he's called in to serve as assistant coach to his grown son, the new head coach at an Ivy League school in Pennsylvania.

Barry Kemp, who created the previous series, will write and serve as executive producer. Details on other casting for the sequel or an air date weren't announced.

Nelson hasn't been away from TV. He co-starred in "Parenthood," which just wrapped a six-year run on NBC. □



Actor Craig T. Nelson holds up his Emmy statuette at the 44th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards in Pasadena, Calif., in this Aug. 31, 1992 file photo.

Associated Press

## Obama talks drug war with 'The Wire' creator David Simon

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Talk of overhauling the criminal justice system is serious business — but before diving into the subject, President Barack Obama had something else he wanted to say.

Obama told David Simon, creator of the acclaimed HBO series "The Wire," that he was a huge fan of the program about life in drug-plagued Baltimore.

Obama and Simon sat down this week at the White House for a 12-minute discussion about the need to reduce the incarceration of nonviolent drug offenders and steps to make cities safer. A video of their conversation was played at Thursday's

Bipartisan Criminal Justice Summit in Washington.

Obama said "The Wire" wasn't just one of the greatest TV shows ever. He called it one of the greatest "pieces of art" in the last couple of decades.

The president said people looking for solutions to the drug war need to "humanize what so often, on the local news, is just a bunch of shadowy characters and tell their stories."

"That's where the work you've done has been so important," Obama told Simon.

Obama once again paid tribute to his favorite "Wire" character: Omar Little, a stick-up man who targets drug dealers. □



# Bill Clinton's 'flaws' the subject of off-Broadway musical

**MARK KENNEDY**  
**AP Drama Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Clintons are going back to the White House this spring — onstage, that is.

"Clinton the Musical," the brainchild of two Australian brothers, makes its off-Broadway debut in April with a hysterical premise and a gentle look back at the '90s.

The play celebrates the first baby-boomer president — the one who preferred briefs to boxers, played a sax on national TV, presided over an economic boom and got himself impeached.

"The thing that endeared Bill Clinton and continues to endear him to the American public is that he was a very identifiable human being," said Paul Hodge, who wrote the music and lyrics and co-wrote the story. "He was clearly human and he had flaws like everyone."

The cast of characters includes Dick Morris, Newt Gingrich, Monica Lewinsky and former Clinton special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, who sings "A Starr Is Born" and "Sexual Relations." There's a dancing press corps and music that takes you back to Celine Dion, Hanson and the Spice Girls. "It really does its job of tak-

ing down America and uplifting it at the same time, in a weird sort of way," said Dan Knechtges, the Tony Award-nominated director and choreographer. "Nothing is sacred."

Two men will play the 42nd president — one a wholesome, intelligent Clinton, and another a randy, rogue one (Tom Galantich and Duke Lafoon share the task.) Only Hillary can see both.

That bifurcated idea was first proposed by Michael Hodge, Paul's older brother, a lawyer in Australia, who co-wrote the story and now consults daily with his brother via Skype on last-minute changes.

"It seemed like a good device to sum up a very complicated man but also something that had a lot of opportunity for humor, and also something that allowed us to tell a story that everyone knows in way that they don't know," said Paul Hodge, a Ph.D. candidate in musical composition at the University of Queensland.

Kerry Butler, the Tony Award-nominated star of "Xanadu," will play Hillary Rodham Clinton just as the former secretary of state debates whether to run her own presidential campaign in 2016.



In this image released by JT-Pr, from left, Tom Galantich, as Bill Clinton, Kerry Butler, as Hillary Rodham Clinton and Duke Lafoon as Billy Clinton, appear during a performance of "Clinton the Musical."

Associated Press

The Hodge brothers kept an eye on Hillary Clinton's career as they wrote the show, reworking her part and throwing in topical humor, like jokes about her email.

"That's part of the fun of doing something that's set in the past where people know what's going to happen in the future but the characters in the past don't know what's going to happen," said Paul Hodge, 27. "That's an opportunity for comedy."

The show was first presented in a shortened form at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2012, before play-

ing the New York Musical Theater Festival last year. It opens off-Broadway at New World Stages on April 9.

The Hodge brothers have been adding and shaping the show, and only two songs remain from the fringe show. Characters have also been deepened. "There was not enough Ken Starr. You can never get enough Ken Starr," Paul Hodge joked.

Bill Clinton's tenure was highlighted by a failed health care reform plan and record budget surpluses. He faced constant scandals, capped by an

affair with a White House intern that made him just the second president to be impeached.

The show notes that the Clinton presidency also coincided with the start of the cable boom and the 24-hour news cycle, developments that have buffeted the leaders who follow.

"I think it was a time when the distance between the public and the presidency evaporated," said Paul Hodge, whose humor is rooted in shows like "The Simpsons," "30 Rock," "Arrested Development" and "The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt." □



American actress and star of the horror film "It Follows" Maika Monroe poses for a portrait on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 in New York.

Associated Press

**ALICIA Rancilio**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Two weeks after opening in

just four theaters, the indie horror movie "It Follows" is getting a wide release this weekend.

## Indie horror movie 'It Follows' gets wide theater release

The film has been getting positive reviews for its originality, paranoia-inducing scenes and lack of a typical villain.

"The movie starts out with my character, Jay, and her boyfriend having this sexual encounter. She soon realizes that he has passed something on to her, this thing, whatever we want to call it, that's haunting her, and the only way to get rid of it is to pass it on," actress Maika Monroe, 21, said in a recent interview.

Director David Robert Mitchell came up with the film's premise from recur-

ring nightmares he had as a child, she said.

"It was this consistent dream that he had of this thing following him, and sometimes it would come as a family member or someone that he recognized that he's never seen," she said. "And it just stuck with him, and there's something so terrifying about a consistency that it never will go away." Monroe said she's aware that when horror movies aren't done right, they're ridiculous.

"The only way to make it believable or draw the audience in for a film like this

is making it as real as possible, so that was my goal." Monroe said she wore headphones to try to stay in the mindset where, "'OK, you need to cry. That emotion is right there,' but it's really hard," she laughed. "It's very draining. By the end of the day you're like, 'Oh, my gosh, I just cried everything out.'"

Would she be interested in doing a sequel?

"I would definitely be interested. I would love to work with David again," she said. "He's one of the most incredible directors and definitely going places." □



# This Snookered Isle



**PAUL KRUGMAN**  
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The 2016 election is still 19 mind-numbing, soul-killing months away. There is, however, another important election in just six weeks, as Britain goes to the polls. And many of the same issues are on the table.

Unfortunately, economic discourse in Britain is dominated by a misleading fixation on budget deficits. Worse, this bogus narrative has infected supposedly objective reporting; media organizations routinely present as fact propositions that are contentious if not just plain wrong.

Needless to say, Britain isn't the only place where things like this happen. A few years ago, at the height of our own deficit fetishism, the American news media showed some of the same vices. Allegedly factual articles would declare that debt fears were driving up interest rates with zero evidence to support such claims. Reporters would drop all pretense of neutrality and cheer on proposals for entitlement cuts.

In the United States, however, we seem to have gotten past that. Britain hasn't.

The narrative I'm talking about goes like this: In the years before the financial crisis, the British government borrowed irresponsibly, so that the country was living far beyond its means. As a result, by 2010 Britain was at imminent risk of a Greek-style crisis; austerity policies, slashing spending in particular, were essential. And this turn to austerity is vindicated by Britain's low borrowing costs, coupled with the fact that the economy, after several rough years, is now growing quite quickly.

Simon Wren-Lewis of Oxford University has dubbed this narrative "mediamacro." As his coinage suggests, this is what you hear all the time on TV and read in British newspapers, presented not as the view of one side of the political debate but as simple fact.

Yet none of it is true.

Was the Labour government that ruled Britain before the crisis profligate? Nobody thought so at the time. In 2007, government debt as a percentage of GDP was close to its lowest level in a century (and well below the level in the United States), while the budget deficit was quite small. The only way to make those numbers look bad is to claim that the British economy in 2007 was operating far above capacity, inflating tax receipts. But if that had been

true, Britain should have been experiencing high inflation, which it wasn't.

Still, wasn't Britain at risk of a Greek-style crisis, in which investors could lose confidence in its bonds and send interest rates soaring? There's no reason to think so. Unlike Greece, Britain has retained its own currency and borrows in that currency - and no country fitting this description has experienced that kind of crisis. Consider the case of Japan, which has far bigger debt and deficits than Britain ever did yet can currently borrow long-term at an interest rate of just 0.32 percent.

Which brings me to claims that austerity has been vindicated. Yes, British interest rates have stayed low. So have almost everyone else's. For example, French borrowing costs are at their lowest level in history. Even debt-crisis countries like Italy and Spain can borrow at lower rates than Britain pays. What about growth? When the current British government came to power in 2010, it imposed harsh austerity - and the British economy, which had been recovering from the 2008 slump, soon began slumping again. In response, Prime Minister David Cameron's government backed off, putting plans for further austerity on hold (but without admitting that it was doing any such thing). And growth resumed.

If this counts as a policy success, why not try repeatedly hitting yourself in the face for a few minutes? After all, it will feel great when you stop.

Given all this, you might wonder how mediamacro gained such a hold on British discourse. Don't blame economists. As Wren-Lewis points out, very few British academics (as opposed to economists employed by the financial industry) accept the proposition that austerity has been vindicated. This media orthodoxy has become entrenched despite, not because of, what serious economists had to say.

Still, you can say the same of Bowles-Simpsonism in the United States, and we know how that doctrine temporarily came to hold so much sway. It was all about posturing, about influential people believing that pontificating about the need to make sacrifices - or, actually, for other people to make sacrifices - is how you sound wise and serious. Hence the preference for a narrative prioritizing tough talk about deficits, not hard thinking about job creation.

As I said, in the United States we have mainly gotten past that, for a variety of reasons - among them, I suspect, the rise of analytical journalism, in places like The Times' The Upshot. But Britain hasn't; an election that should be about real problems will, all too likely, be dominated by mediamacro fantasies. □



# Governor Jindal's Implosion



**CHARLES M. BLOW**  
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What happened to Bobby Jindal?

He was the next wave of Republican. He was young and smart - a Rhodes scholar. He was the son of immigrants and the first Indian-American governor in this country's history. He had even bounced back from his disastrous rebuttal to President Barack Obama's first State of the Union address. (Personally, I thought that his claim of having participated in an exorcism performed on his friend in college would have been more of an issue than it was, but that was just me.)

Jindal had all the right rhetoric. He told Cal Thomas of Shreveport's The Times: "As Republicans we don't need to obsess about our opponents, we don't need to define ourselves in opposition to our opponents. Let [Democrats] look backward; we need to look forward." In 2013, he demanded that the GOP "stop being the stupid party."

Jindal was the brainy Moses coming to deliver his people from the bondage of inanity. But that was then.

Now, Jindal has gone from being one of the most popular governors in the country to one of the least popular.

In the latest CNN/ORC poll of Republicans and independents who lean Republican, only 1 percent said that he

was the candidate they would most likely support for the Republican nomination. Even "none/no one" got 6 percent. And in a desperate attempt at relevancy - and press - he has lately been sliding further into Islamic hysteria.

In January, he caused a controversy by claiming that parts of Europe were "no-go zones" because of Muslim extremists. Jindal said that there were cities "where non-Muslims simply don't go in," like Birmingham in Britain. Prime Minister David Cameron said in response: "When I heard this, frankly, I choked on my porridge and I thought it must be April Fools' Day. This guy is clearly a complete idiot."

That hasn't stopped Jindal. Last week on Fox News, he set about defending his statement that America "shouldn't tolerate those who want to come and try to impose some variant, or some version, of Shariah law." But he went so far as to say of prospective immigrants: "In America we want people who want to be Americans. We want people who want to come here. We don't say, 'You have to adopt our creed, or any particular creed,' but we do say, 'If you come here, you need to believe in American exceptionalism.'"

What? Where is that written? I can't find this "need to believe in American exceptionalism" anywhere in the Immigration and Nationality Act. Isn't American exceptionalism itself a creed?

The smart-on-paper Jindal increasingly comes across as nuttier than a piece of praline. On Friday, Robert Mann, a columnist at The Times-Picayune in New Orleans, called for Jindal's resignation, citing all of the problems in the state that the governor isn't focusing on as he tries to gin up a greater national profile:

"We have some of the nation's highest poverty and worst health outcomes and you've

done little to address them. Baton Rouge, your hometown, has the nation's second-highest HIV rate (New Orleans is fourth), but you've done nothing to address that crisis. What you have done is hollow out higher education and inject needless confusion and rancor into the state's elementary and secondary education system. Meanwhile, the state's health care system is a fractured, dysfunctional mess under your privatization schemes. Now, you've outsourced the state's tax policy to Grover Norquist of Americans for Tax Reform."

Louisiana's fiscal picture is dire. As Politico reported in February:

"Jindal is preparing a budget to close a \$1.6 billion shortfall in Louisiana, a particularly daunting task after the \$400 million in additional money he had to scare up to fill a budget gap for the current year. The president of Louisiana State University said earlier this month that the state's flagship school is preparing for a 40 percent cut in its operating budget next year."

In fact, The Times-Picayune reported in January that "Gov. Bobby Jindal's administration said Louisiana's colleges and universities should be prepared to sustain anywhere from \$200 million to \$300 million in cuts during the 2015-16 school year."

But in February, Jindal strained credulity, claiming, "The total higher education budget, including means of total finance - is actually a little bit, just slightly, higher than when I took office." The Washington Post's Fact Checker blog quickly smacked that down, awarding Jindal three Pinocchios.

Jindal has made a mess of Louisiana and wrecked his reputation in the process. His odds of becoming president of the United States have shrunk to nil. Sometimes what looks good on paper is a disaster in practice. □



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Little Switzerland Aruba has three stores participating in this wonderful campaign: its Flagship store in the Royal Plaza Mall, Oranjestad.

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This campaign also celebrates the Launch of the Tahitian Jelly Beans by Michele 2015 collection, which features a dose of playful luxury in an irresistible range of colors. With a chronograph movement and a sporty strap and bezel, these timepieces are as undeniably fun as they are luxurious. □